Sunday, July 15, 2007 44 14 sections / Vol. 32 / No. 217 P30 www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
FRANCO NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

JOB
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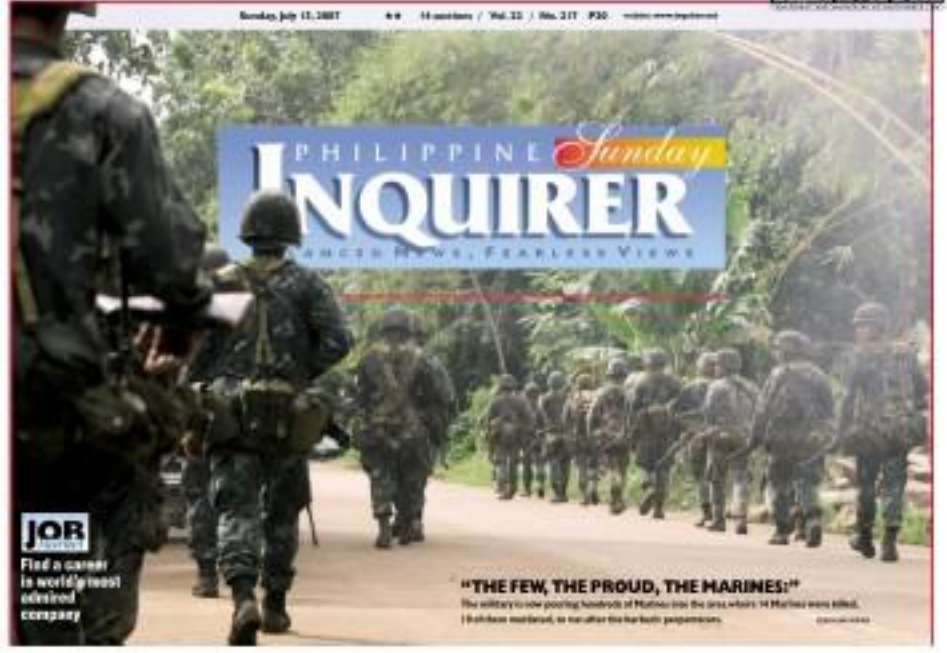

"THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MARINES:"
The military is now pouring hundreds of Marines into the area, where 14 Marines were killed, 1 is still been murdered, so we can after the barbaric perpetrators.

Home are the heroes

GMA says killers can't hide under negotiating table

By Julie Lobo Jacobara

HOME ARE THE HEROES—14 YOUNG MARINES WHO vainly searched the jungles of Basilan on Tuesday for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi and who died in an ambush by members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front despite a four-year ceasefire agreement.

President Macapagal-Arroyo led the military brass and some 400 other officers and personnel yesterday afternoon in according a heroes' welcome to the Marines killed in action.

Ten of the 14 were beheaded and mutilated by their attackers. Their orders, another than the four others, indicated their sad fate.

Vice President Noli de Castro, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales also took part in the somber ceremony at Villamor Air Base (VAB) in Pasay City.

A light rain fell as the 14 flag-draped coffins were unloaded one by one from a C-130 plane by six pallbearers from the Navy and Marines dressed in pale uniforms.

Mr Arroyo stepped in the front of the navy and saluted as each coffin was carried out.

Later, widows, parents and siblings stood behind the coffins of their loved ones and wept as the Philippine Air Force Band played "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

The MILF had admitted that its fighters attacked and killed the Marines, whom it accused of entering into its stronghold in Alliarin. [formerly Tipo...

HOME A-8

'The slain soldiers tried their best to save the rest'

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ISABELA CITY, BASILAN—FIRSTLIEUTENANT wounded, [and Lt. Maria Rowena Miranda and her crew on board the armored V150 Commando 312 returned to the ambush site in a brave effort to retrieve wounded comrades. [the profile of Miranda] p.A-3

"People see me as a hero, but I am not," Miranda said. "My heroes are all those slain soldiers who tried their best to save the rest. My appeal to our government is to believe us. Ours, the highest casualty, because they deserve it more than I do."

Miranda recounted stories of courage

THE MAIN A-8

Meet lone woman Marine in thick of Basilan fighting

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ISABELA CITY, BASILAN—THE PHILIPpine Marines now has a young female officer on combat duty—the first in its history.

Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Ireneo Allaga said the presence of a woman in their ranks had made the corps even prouder despite the July 14 debacle in Barangay Guinnia, Alicilan [formerly Tipo-Tipo].

News like [the] The Few, The Proud, The Marines' is more meaningful because we are no longer an all-male military unit. Now we have females, and one of the first women we have is actually on combat duty," he told the reporters.

Allaga was referring to 2nd Lt. Maria Rowena "Weng" Miranda, head of the 72nd Marine Company under its assault Armor Battalion.

Weng, an ace pointer in her subject, was in the thick of the fighting that followed the 7am ambush in Guinnia of a convoy of Marines heading back to base after a fruitless search for the kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi. [Here's a sight.]

There are 11 other female officers in the Marine Corps.

According to Allaga, Weng is

MARY A-10

PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS' FIRST-EVER FEMALE ON COMBAT DUTY: 2nd Lt. Maria Rowena Miranda poses with her "boyfriend" the V150 Commando in Tabiawan, Basilan

First Pinay oceanographer to the rescue

By Angelina G. Suiny
Contributor

[T ABOUT THE TIME ORGANIZERS OF the worldwide concert "Live Earth" were turning up the heat on climate change awareness, oceanographers mentioned a further increase in the sea surface temperature in the Pacific.

The Marine Science Institute (MSI) at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, observed that from June to July, the temperature had risen to 31 degrees Celsius [an increase of 3 degrees].

This is higher than the average temperature over the last 20 years, said Dr.

KRISTI PRAISE 10A

Board game helps players beat corruption

By Fe Zamora

LUNGSOD, LAGUNA—GAB ONG marries a corrupt business system with an honest one without engaging in graft and bribery?

Yes, if life were a reality-based game called "Kamunlaan."

Designed by Richard Heydorn,

BIANCA 9A

Strunk suicide deepens Nida murder mystery

By Reuyen Sen Diego Jr., Alexis Pepa, Tarra Torres and Thea Alberto
Inquirer net

THE DEATH OF RIO STRUNK HAS deepened the mystery of the murder of his wife Nida Blanca.

But close friends of the late actress say otherwise.

"I believe that his death ends Nida's murder case."

This reaction came after news that Strunk, accused as the mastermind in Blanca's gruesome murder, had committed suicide.

"I want to tell Rep Tonyo Ebdane's daughter Beata a previous marriage] not to pursue the case anymore. I also want to remind a lawyer—to know more about the legal representation of his death," said veteran actress Caridad Sanchez, a close friend of Blanca.

Sanchez said Strunk's death was point to justice, saying she found it "very ironic" that Strunk also died in a parking lot.

"Why is it that he was also found in a parking lot?" asked Sanchez. "What is the meaning of his death? It's like poetic justice."

Strunk, 68, a former UP actor and singer, died Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) after falling reportedly from the second floor balcony of a motel in Brea, California, to the parking lot 40 feet below in what police ruled was a suicide.

"Rene can see [Strunk] where he [Strunk] is already dead? Rene on eye (That's enough). That's hatred already.

STRUNK, A2

US Senate votes to double Bin Laden bounty to $50M
WORLD / A26

How Angel stays afloat, and Carmina's best defense
ENTERTAINMENT / G4

Staying all right all through the night: How call center workers can cope with their graveyard shift
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Wild about Harry: Some secrets behind the making of the latest Harry Potter movie
JUNIOR INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

Second
FRONTPAGE

12th senator finally proclaimed

Zubiri says he's looking forward to working with opposition solons

By Jeremaiah Opiniano

EXACTLY TWO MONTHS AFTER THE MAY 14 POLLS, the Commission on Elections yesterday proclaimed Team Unity's Juan Miguel Zubiri a senator, ending a bitter political squabble over the 12th spot in the race.

"I'm so excited to buckle down to work. To see friends in the Senate, hire [some]," Zubiri told reporters.

He said he was looking forward to working with his friends in the Senate, particularly Franco "Chiz" Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano and Dr. Miguel "Migz" Zubiri III, who, like Zubiri, were members of the previous House of Representatives.

He said he would also like to work with his rival, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III's father, Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., whom he called his "idol."

Escudero, Cayetano, Aquino and Pimentel are with the opposition.

Yes to investigation

Once in the Upper House, he said he would not hinder any investigation that may be launched by other senators regarding the alleged election irregularities in Maguindanao.

Zubiri, however, had to wait more than an hour and a half to be proclaimed because some of the election commissioners arrived late for the rites originally scheduled at 10 a.m. Commissioner Romeo Brawner, who was on an official trip to Pangasinan, missed the proclamation.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., who read the poll body's resolution certifying Zubiri's victory, said Zubiri won by 19,292 votes over 13th placer Pimentel.

Based on the latest Comelec tally, Zubiri got a total of 11,894,099 votes, while Pimentel obtained 11,986,807.

Abalos said the remaining uncanvassed vote results "will not materially affect" Zubiri's lead.

Abalos presented to Zubiri his certificate of proclamation and refused his congratulations. The date flashed by the other commissioners, then raised Zubiri's hand as the latter's supporters applauded.

Zubiri joined family members, supporters and friends in posing for pictures in the Comelec session hall, looking relieved and less nervous compared to recent weeks after Pimentel asked the Supreme Court to stop Zubiri's proclamation.

On Friday, Pimentel failed to secure a temporary restraining order from the high tribunal to block Zubiri's proclamation due to alleged fraudulent election results from Maguindanao province that favored TU candidates.

Zubiri attended to being swarmed out and exhausted fighting Pimentel's moves before the Comelec, the Supreme Court and the public.

He told reporters: "I thank God because it's been surreal and emotional ordeal for me."

Full automation

Zubiri's six-year term as a senator should have begun on June 30.

He said the recommendations of observers would be one of his priorities so that no candidate would ever have to wait to be proclaimed, as he did, and no one would be tempted to cheat.

"This is a law I wouldn't mind even ever see exercised," he said.

He said he would help his fellow senators, especially Richard Gordon, in making sure the recently-passed Automated Election System Act would be implemented, adding: "If this law was more terrible (Dark), he said, "Give me time to prove myself," adding that his time spent in the House gave him a good running ground for legislative work.

Meanwhile, Zubiri said he would no longer pursue the libel case he contemplated filing against fellow Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

"There's still a lot more issues to be filed. Let's put more forward for the people. Enough of quarrels," he told reporters.

IMAGE CLINCH: Senatorial-ship-with-the-Comelec commissioners who proclaimed him yesterday, from left, Rene Sarmiento, Resurreccion Borra, chair Benjamin Abalos, Florentino Tuason Jr. and Nicodemo Ferrer.

Widespread protests greet onset of antiterror law

By TJ Burgonio in Manila, and Ronvic Ponte and Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

[illegible] SECURITIES ACT A "real threat" to civil liberties, the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas yesterday declared "open season" on the public servants it has targeted against abuse on the implementation of the new law and mood violations of their rights.

Hundreds of militants launched simultaneous protest rallies yesterday in provinces within the Bicol region calling for concerted efforts to oppose the implementation of the law.

Members of leftist organizations massed in front of the barangay Provincial Police Office as their leaders took turns assailing the Arroyo administration.

In Albay, members of the leftist group Gabriela, Kilusang Mayo Uno, KMU Kalumnan, Cooler Force, Kompirasi and Bayan picketed the PNP Regional Command in Camp Ola before they proceeded to the Albay capitol building.

The protesters challenged Albay Gov. Joey Salceda and Vice Gov. Rodolfo Ilad to protect Albayanos from harm in the wake of the implementation of the HSA.

In Los Baños, Laguna, about 100 University of the Philippines Los Baños students and members of political groups held a protest rally and candlelight march on Friday evening along Anonas Road to protest the new law.

Arman Albarillo, Bayan-Southern Tagalog secretary general, said the bayanan the group started their protest at about 6 p.m. and ended at about 7 p.m.

He said the protest in the university town was held simultaneously with demonstrations in Batangas, Rizal, Cavite and Quezon.

The law was to defy the law, KMU public information officer Carl Alcantara, was to provide to always assert their rights, and to be always aware of the issues by joining rallies and forums.

"Make your voice heard," he said. "The best countermeasure is awareness. We should always be on the alert. We should not allow ourselves to be cowarded by this law."

The KMU said it rejected the government's calls "trumped up charges" against militants and urged them to listen to calls of the Arroyo administration known as the antiterror law, now effective today.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had confirmed the HSA would take effect Sunday without the need of any implementing rules and regulations.

The KMU went as far as to say that the government might even deploy "death squads" to liquidate political leaders in Bicol or Manila.

"Whether there's an IRR (implementing rules and regulations) or not, the terror law will become an instrument of the regime against the people. They're saying that we're a front of the NPA. So, under the circumstances the people and organizations can end of the government," Alcantara said in a statement.

"That's why we're taking extra precautions. The media should also take precautions," Alcantara said.

The other pieces of advice were:

- When going out, always tell someone where you're going and your estimated time of arrival or your destination.
- Always go in groups. Always be on the lookout for suspicious individuals.
- If you are being followed, do not panic. Go to a crowded place and ask for help. Take note of the face, build and other features of the individuals stalking you.

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Fish going on postage stamps

By Amy D. Remo

TUNA, CUTTLEFISH, MARRIES, SQUID and other aquatic creatures take center stage this month when the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Philippine Postal Corp. launch a special postage stamp series called "Fishes."

The unveiling of the special stamps is among the major highlights of a month-long celebration of the BFAR's 60th anniversary.

According to BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento Jr., the seven commemorative stamps features several of the Philippines' prime export products, including yellowfin tuna, skipjack, giant trevally, Indian mackerel, cuttlefish, tiger squid and sunri green (seaweed).

The photos used in the stamps were provided by Filipino fishers hobbyists, environmentalists and the BFAR.

Tuna is the country's top export product in the United States, Japan, China and a number of European countries.

The Philippines is the world's second largest producer of seaweed, with production reaching 1.29 million metric tons. This accounts for 11.4 percent of the total world production of 11.2 million metric tons.

As well, the Philippines ranks No. 8 among the top 10 fish-producing countries in the world, with a production of 4.16 million metric tons. This accounts for 2.9 percent of the total world production of 146.27 million metric tons, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

"The underlying of the fishes in the Philippine stamps is a recognition of the significance of fisheries to the country's economy," Philpost Assistant Postmaster General Lois Carlos said.

Carlos commended the efforts of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the BFAR for its six decades of ensuring proper management and conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources.

Sarmiento expressed confidence that with the DA's support, fish production could again breach another milestone this year—the 5-million-metric-ton mark.

The fisheries sector reached a production of 3 million metric tons only in 1991, and 4 million metric tons in 2000.

In the first quarter of 2007, the fishery subsector proved to be the biggest gainer, posting an 8.32 percent surge.

Accounting for 23.66 percent of the total agricultural output, the sector's production value amounted to P62.47 billion, up by 10.3 percent from P56.56 billion in the same period last year.

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Ferry's certificate suspended

Captain says accident not result of miscalculation

By Rica T. Olchondra, in Manila, and Dadito Mallari, Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE MARITIME INDUSTRY Authority (Marina) yesterday suspended the safety certificate and crew documents of self-propelled passenger ferry M/V Blue Water Princess, which ran aground off the coast of Quezon province on July 11, resulting in the death of at least 13 people.

The 58.9-meter Blue Water Princess, owned by SC Asia Express Liner and operated by SC Asia Ships Marina, left Dalahican port in Lucena City on Wednesday afternoon bound for Masbate. But the 483-ton vessel was battered by strong winds and seven-meter waves, which made it run aground. It is now half submerged on its port, or left, side.

Only 11 of the 76 fatalities listed as of updated emergency records have been identified.

They are Rodolfo de la Fuente, ship chief mate; Milgie Bebas, ordinary seaman; Brenson de Guzman, apprentice, and passengers Bernard and Leonida Arcega of Pasig; Marbella; Gloria Bendo, Masbate City; Juan de Jesus, Marinas, Mauban; Criseya Lebong, Masbate City; Leodito Manlubia, Lucena City; Maribel Abadilla, Masbate City, and Lorena Arcinigas.

Twenty of the crew members, rescued and repatried, Blue Barge Service official said he allowed to travel," said Antor S. Jacinto, Marina's official in charge for enforcement.

Jacinto said the agency was still conducting its formal investigation.

"Marina, together with local port authorities, will also tighten up on the use of so-called 'ghost crew' because we are expecting more bad weather," Jacinto said.

When the search is complete, the board of Marina inquiry (BMI), tasked with investigating maritime disasters, will convene immediately to pinpoint what went wrong and who should be held responsible. BMI is empowered to revoke the franchise of operators or suspend the license of ship officers.

But Nicolito Servando, 61, captain of the ill-fated ship, asserted yesterday that the "midwestern weather" was not the result of any "miscalculation" on his part.

Servando said he had been going through the Dalahican-Masbate sea lane for the past five years. "These waves were very abnormal along that route."

Retiring back his coast, Servando reminded his counterparts to the extreme caution.

"I want to extend my sincere condolences to the families of the victims and I hope they will understand me because I did all I could for the safety of all passengers," he said in Filipino.

Servando said he had served as a licensed ship captain since 1984 without any maritime accident.

Today has three of my sons, including my chief mate. Any ship official in that situation would have made the same decision that I made. It's a judgment call to protect the lives of the passengers and I know I made the right decision," Servando said.

He said he was ready to face the BMI.

Servando also defended reports there could be more bodies in the ship's eight cabins.

No cabins

"We don't have cabin passengers. If there are still dead bodies inside the cabins, why are there not inclined in the missing list as supplied by the survivors? All the missing have been accounted for," he said.

According to a military report, divers found oxygen inside the cabin of the M/V Blue Water Princess but were not able to retrieve them due to strong sea currents.

Lower Cosmic Ruda, speaking in behalf of Blue Magic Navies, maintained that the crew members were not remiss in their duties.

"It seems that there is none being made the crewmen were unprepared," Ruda said.

"The ship was in good running condition. The engine and the generator were still running even if the ship was already lying on its side," the lawyer said.

Ruda said the ferry line had provided financial assistance to the survivors, none of whom had been interviewed.

"The company is doing all it can to lessen the grief of the victims' families by helping with funeral expenses, among other things. There's no use to blame for this unfortunate tragedy," he said.

He advised all the parties concerned to remain in, formed by following official PRC and Board of Nursing announcements disseminated through the media.

PRC: Texts on nursing exam false

TEXT MESSAGES GOING around about the 2007 Nurses Licensure Examination given in June should not be believed, the Professional Regulation Commission said yesterday.

The PRC said the nursery exam also given to 2000 examinees who opted to retake the test after last year's cheating scandal, was proceeding smoothly.

Considering that more than 78,000 nursing graduates took the exams that remained of the subjects, answering the exam papers should take longer, the PRC said in an official announcement, a copy of which was sent to the Inquirer.

The announcement, signed by PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero, said the results of last June's nursing licensure exam would be released in the last week of August.

Thus, nursing examinees should not believe text messages going around about the range of passing and the number that passed the exam, the announcement said.

It advised all the parties concerned to remain in, formed by following official PRC and Board of Nursing announcements disseminated through the media.

Overemployment due to low wages, says labor group

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS of the Philippines (TUCP) yesterday described the "overemployment" of some 7.6 million workers, which is tagged as one offshoot of depressed wages.

"Wages here are grossly inadequate. Thus a salty a growing number of labor force participants are being driven to supplement its work and additional income," Alex Aguilar, spokesperson of the moderate workers' group, said in a statement.

Aguilar said that many workers were being forced to toil longer hours "simply because their take-home pay is not enough to cover the daily cost of decent living."

Aguilar was reacting to a report by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) that said that nearly four of every 20 employed Filipinos were found to be overemployed last year.

The BLES, interpreting data from the National Statistics Office's quarterly surveys on the labor force, said that of the 33 million Filipinos with jobs, nearly nine hundred thousand (893,000) or 7.6 million, were overemployed.

Aguilar described the reported overemployment as "a labor market distortion," caused primarily by low and insufficient wages.

"This is a distortion because if a person is earning enough for an eight-hour job, then he or she would not have to look for additional work that ought to be performed by someone else who is totally jobless or underemployed," the labor leader said.

The TUCP has a pending petition for a P75 increase in the minimum regional daily minimum wage for workers in Metro Manila. The regional tripartite wages and productivity boards have deliberating on the petition last week.

"We are definitely counting on the wage board to provide instant relief to our workers," Aguilar said.

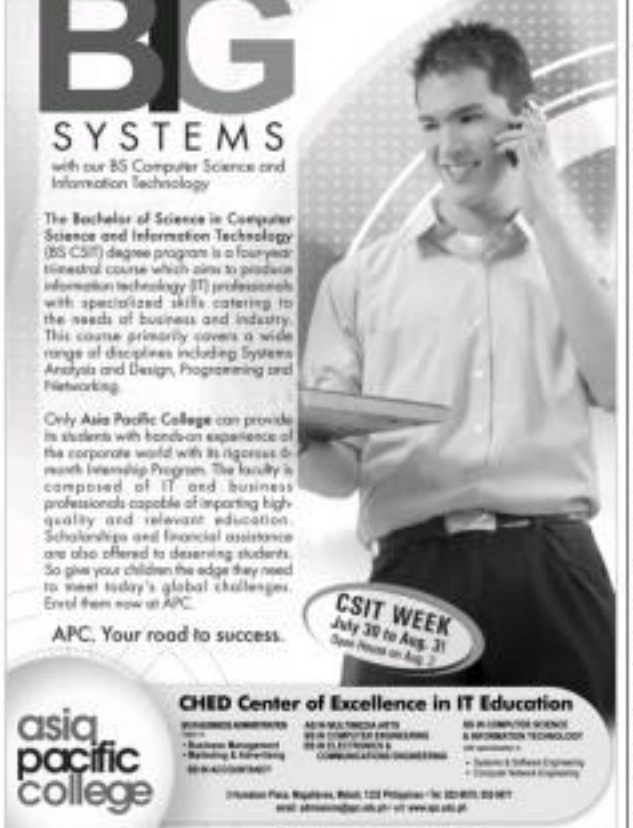
Aguilar griped down fears that higher wages would only worsen unemployment.

"That is old hat. Those opposed to giving workers higher wages always try to play up and exaggerate the ghost of job loss," he said.

"On the contrary, higher wages will drive up personal consumption expenditure, create new demand for goods and services, and thus prop up domestic industries and employment," Aguilar said.

The BLES report said that more than half of all overemployed Filipinos, or about 4.1 million, were men.

The report also said that more than half of the overemployed—54.5 percent or 4.4 million—worked for the entire season. About 46 percent, or three million, gave "job requirement" as another reason for working more.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, July 15, 2007
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

The word is very near to you.

Moses said to the people, "You shall turn to Yahweh your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, and observe his commandments and norms, in a word, everything written in this book of the Law.

"These commandments that I give you today are neither too high nor too far off for you. They are not in heaven that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven to get these commandments for us? We must hear them and put them into practice.' Neither are they at the other side of the sea for you to say, 'Who will cross to the other side and bring them to us, that we may hear them and put them into practice.'

"On the contrary, my word is very near you; it is already in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can put it into practice."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 68:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37

Responsory: I'll bring my cause to you, O God.

Or: Glory be to God in the highest, and to his kin.

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God,
and he is the first of all creatures,
for in him all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
Dominions, rulers, authorities, powers.
All was made through him and for him.
He is before all
and all things hold together in him.
And he is the head of the body that is the Church,
he who is the first, the first raised from the dead
that he may be the first in everything,
for God was pleased to let fullness dwell in him
through him God willed to reconcile
all things to himself, and through him,
through his blood shed on the cross,
God establishes peace, on earth as in heaven.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

"Who is my neighbor?

A teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scripture? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you shall live." But man wanted to keep up appearances, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus now said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half dead.

"It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite came to the place and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he came upon the man, he was moved with compassion. He went over to him and treated his wounds with oil and wine and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own mount and brought him to an inn where he took care of him.

"The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him, 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'"

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."

Communion Song:

Bless, O God, with the people is bread God's wine and keep his command-
ments fast, and more with all their heart and soul. He will then that God's command, the Word, is on their tongue, in their mouths and hearts—all they have to do is carry it out. The Word is in fullness on hearts to be Christ Jesus, the image of the invisible God. His disciples have revealed both heaven and earth and all that is in God. All were for it praise that he has shared with us through the cross of Christ... Jesus' obedient to the face of silence and loss.

Jesus is speaks but by a lawyer and counting "What shall I have to do to receive eternal life?" He answers the law but refers he is to take it, he mentioning Jesus? He repeats the law but refers he is to take it, he mentioning specifics—who is my neighbor? He points the bottom line, the least he has to do to have eternal life. Jesus tells the story of a Samaritan, hated by the Jews, who still considers a Jew with kindness and devotion that goes beyond the call of duty required. Considering that the Samaritan is a Gentile, Jesus takes the Samaritan and tells the Jew to imitate him—for he reveals the goodness of God so clearly. This is not unlike to live with such love and care towards one's enemies because of pure Merciful love given to us. Who are our enemies and are we making to them in this way as commanded?

FIESTA 'O' PULLS THROUGH

Typhoon Mario's (Philippine name: Ineng) hit Tokyo Friday but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of a good size crowd that came to watch the Department of Tourism's parade in the Japanese city's historic Yoyogi Park. Huddled under hastily pitched tents, close to 150 performers, including "Miss Saipan" veteran couple Joy Alvarez and Rolan Cortes (center), flew in for Philippine Fiesta 2007.

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SMART INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

UNDERWATER RESEARCH: Dr. Laura T. David dives the reefs of Bolinao, Pangasinan with son of her students as the Marine Science Institute in UP Diliman to gather data for use in verifying remotely sensed images and model results. COURTESY OF DAVID

TEAM WORK: With researchers from Pagasa and the Philippine Navy, David is on an oceanographic cruise in the Sulu Sea on board the US ship RV Melville. The equipment at center measures the ocean's conductivity, temperature and depth.

First Pinay oceanographer ...

Front page 4 ▸

Laura T. David, MSI associate professor and deputy director for instruction. The two-decade average is 29 degrees Celsius.

David sat down for an interview on Tuesday, the eve of the 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology during which she received an award as this year's Outstanding Young Scientist in physical oceanography.

She is a UP chemistry graduate who obtained her Ph.D. in marine science physical oceanography from the University of South Carolina (USC) in the United States.

She is the first Filipino woman with a Ph.D. in physical oceanography. (The only other one is now in California.)

Public education

Aside from teaching and research, David devotes time to public education. She gives lectures and workshops to local governments officials and managers of coastal protected areas on the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems.

She also meets with fishers, aquaculture practitioners and coastal dwellers to discuss issues like fishkill, mitigating environmental disasters and improving the quality of coastal water quality.

On a wider note, she gives workshops on data-gathering techniques amount shifts and boundaries as a member of the steering committee of the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone, an international scientific body.

According to David's newest, among her ongoing research projects is "looking at how human activities on land and sea affect coastal areas and are vulnerable to regional climate change."

This wife and mother recently returned from the first of a series of research cruises around the country to look into ocean productivity and diversity through a project funded by the US Office of Naval Research.

2 major concerns

Warm water raises two major concerns in the Philippines—more powerful storms and coral bleaching. The warmer the water, the greater the energy a cyclone gathers from it. Then, in recent years, typhoons signals have strength as high as No. 4.

"A sea surface temperature of 27 or 28 degrees Celsius is enough to stir up a low-pressure area," said David, who is also involved in the development of ocean models relating to the Philippines as well as UP MSI graduate courses.

An unusually warm sea surface temperature has also been identified as the most important contribution that causes corals to expel the algae within their tissue that give them their characteristic color, so that they appear bleached white.

This process, called coral bleaching, contributed to the death of corals under prolonged stress. And when corals die, reefs disappear, resulting in massive losses in fishes and other marine life dependent on them.

Scientists have observed that most bleaching episodes occur when the sea surface temperature rises as little as one degree Celsius over the monthly average during the hottest months of the year.

The MSI is closely monitoring the situation, and preparing for the eventuality that it would have to take "drastic action," said David.

It is focusing on a vast coral reef area covering up to 30 hectares in Bolinao, Pangasinan, where its research station is located.

Such action could include shielding coral reefs. David said that in Australia, scientists had used sunshades to cover coral reefs, and that in some areas, it worked.

Worst episode

Aside from income and resources derived by industries like fishing and tourism, coral reefs protect coastal communities from severe storm damage, erosion and flooding.

The worst coral bleaching episode occurred in 1998, resulting in the death of the strongest El Niño event recorded thus far.

David said the episode lasted two weeks, and was first observed in the Philippines in Northwestern Luzon, near the Lingayen Gulf.

The most severely affected was the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, as well as the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania, where up to 90 percent of the coral cover was lost or severely damaged.

Scientists say that sea surface temperatures are expected to continue to increase worldwide.

"The best safeguard against coral bleaching is to curb overfishing," David said.

Passion

David is passionate about promoting marine science education.

While completing her doctorate, she taught at the USC. Later, she teamed up with two marine biologists to produce spa video production units called Ocean Observers.

"We produced mostly small clips, which we sold to the National Geographic Channel," recalled David, who wrote the storyboards, provided underwater lighting, and did post-production editing.

One dry-season thanks was used in the movie "Spy Kids."

Wife to IT specialist Ramon C. Sumpaing, and mother to 3-year-old Logan Isabel, David hopes to try something similar here, this time on TV.

THE PASSIONATE OCEANOGRAPHER UP CLOSE: David confronts a dog-faced pufferfish at work.

Like her grandfather, Bienvenido Dr. Augusto Tiongson, who studied in Boston and returned to the Philippines to apply the knowledge he had acquired, David left the profession and life after two years and came back to her homeland in 1998.

Many have asked her why. Her answer: reply: "When you've seen how beautiful our country is, you would."

She may as well add, "Let's hope we can preserve that beauty before it's too late."

Board game helps players beat corruption

Front page 4 ▸

ANTI-CORRUPTION CRUSADERS: 40 Boy Scouts join a 5-day camp in Los Baños, Laguna, into anti-corruption lessons. The youth-packed camp featured free-play with board games and listened to lectures. It was organized by the Association of 10 Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines. CHRISTINA DELA PAZ

an American business executive and author. Rosenpluses is an intriguing board game about Free World economics during business in the Third World.

The reality board game was among the highlights of the six-day "Governance Camp for Emerging Anti-Corruption Crusaders," JOCC-Camp!, a six-day camp for selected 15-year-old Boy Scouts from public and private schools in Luzon held at the Mount Makiling campsite site from July 8 to 13.

"This game will show you how in most corruption, that one can succeed is a corrupt businessman or criminal without engaging in illegal activities," Gorchein, who designed the game after his company collapsed in Indonesia, told the Inquirer.

In 1998, Gorchein began working in Indonesia as a consultant of the American giant WorldCo, Inc., which entered into a joint venture with the Indonesian government and two other companies.

Soul-shaking

In less than three years, the company collapsed because of "corruption." The experience is described by Gorchein as "soul-shaking," he said.

It also inspired Gorchein to design the game Transparium and to write the book "Corruption Acts in Third World Countries: Gripes, Invisible, and Facts Aloud by the Master Player."

The objective of Transpluses, which can be played by two to seven people, is to become the wealthiest and most powerful player by having the most cash, factories and assets, while avoiding the many pitfalls that could affect one's business.

The game begins when a group of executives arrive to do business in a country called Airlusa, the seat of corruption. Faced with six different languages, a different culture and even laws "with widely different interpretations."

Pitfalls

One pitfall can be a change in the political leadership of Hitchmania, and the player can choose to "lose a turn or pay a $10,000 bribe for reconfiguration to the new leaders."

But the players can also blow the whistle on each other, and the losing player can go to jail. Forming alliances with other players, for instance, is a "wrongdoing" that could also mean a jail term.

Gorchein's said Transpluses, which means "new and ever changing collusion," teaches business concepts and messages aimed at overcoming "the perils of government corruption and the pitfalls of being clean."

He said the game would also show Western business companies the dynamics of doing business in Third World countries, including the Philippines.

Role-playing

Another highlight of the Governance camp was role-playing by selected Scouts and youth leaders.

Six six-man, five-woman "activated" roles as leaders of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, played games, set through lectures, watched a film on how to bring down a dictator, listened to pep talks from some of country's graft busters, and even had time to go swimming and fishing.

Senior Adrian Tan of Chiang Kai-shek College, who assumed the role of a member of the Commission on Elections, expressed his group's greatest achievement: "We gave a better version of the Comelec. There was no vote buying, no terrorism."

The GovCamp practically created a "micro Philippines" governed and peopled by 40 selected Scouts and youth leaders, who go through the process of electing their "leaders," and allowing those leaders to rule, while as opposition are as floaters, and other groups play the roles of watchdogs and ordinary citizens.

Anti-corruption

Redempto Parafina, chairman of the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines (TOBSP) organizer of the pilot camp said one of their aims was to inculcate anti-corruption initiatives in their own school or community.

In fact, he said, the training could also starting with Day 1, exposed the scouts to situations that pushed them to discuss among themselves what could be done.

And what could be a better process than an election?

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Strunk suicide deepens Nida murder mystery

Front page A1

ROD Strunk and Nida Blanca in happier times.

TIMELINE

The Nida Blanca murder

Nov. 7, 1981—THE BODY OF actress Nida Blanca, wife of actor/co-host/friend, is found at around 8 a.m. in the bathtub of her posh Hinoor Scores estate at the Atlanta Center in Greenhills. She has 13 stab wounds, including a fatal wound to her neck.

Nov. 8, 1981—The PNP forms "Task Force Blanca" to widen its probe of the killing. It's named after her long-running TV sitcom with Dolphy "John en Marsha."

Nov. 9, 1981—NBI Director Bernardo Ponce says the PNP will lead the investigation of Blanca's killing. The NBI will only be a supporting unit and that all the evidence and witnesses will be turned over to the police. Chief Supt. Benjamin Gaoiteno, director of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, is named head of Task Force Blanca.

Nov. 14, 1981—Nida Blanca is buried at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Nov. 18, 1981—Police Philip Lauren Model Jr., supposedly one of the two "hired killers" suspected by the PNP and the NBI, turns himself in, claiming he was "framed" by his commanders." Model says that Strunk brought a certain Mike Bautista, connected him to certain Nida was producing a document related to her WSE.

Nov. 19, 1981—Then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez says that Strunk is now considered a suspect in Nida's murder.

Nov. 23, 2001—Model breaks down and claims he was out-cued by the PNP-CIDG to submit to the scene and to name Rod Strunk as the alleged mastermind.

Dec. 15, 2001—Strunk is questioned at the NBI for around 13 hours. He submits his 12-page sworn statement.

Jan. 25, 2002—Strunk leaves for the United States to attend to his ailing mother. Strunk was on the Bureau of Immigration watchlist prior to his departure. After signaling he wanted to leave the country to attend to his mother in the United States, he was allowed to leave since no court orders were issued against his departure.

July 17, 2002—Mystery charges three ex-policemen and throw as accessories in the murder of Blanca. DOJ charges Strunk with parricide while Model is charged with murder, together with a Jane Doe, a John Doe and other Does. Charged with Strunk as accessories to murder are ganch Ricky Alvarez, Roberto Galvez and Dr. Alex Molinos, the guards on duty at the Atlanta Center Building at the time of the murder.

Aug. 12, 2002—The NBI asks the DOJ to amend the criminal charge lodged against Strunk from parricide to murder.

Nov. 5, 2002—DOJ issues subpoena for investigation of Blanca's murder.

Feb. 14, 2003—DOJ indicts Strunk as the leader behind the murder of Blanca on the strength of the botched frame-up confession of Model. The prosecution's version of a two-man panel of the DOJ established that Strunk indeed ordered Model to kill Blanca.

Strunk and Model, along with a Jane Doe, were charged with murder at the Pasig City RTC.

All other respondents, including the three security guards at the Atlanta building, are exonerated for lack of evidence.

Feb. 21, 2003—Pasig RTC Branch 156 Judge Mary Ann Quiroz issues a warrant of arrest against Strunk.

Feb. 24, 2003—Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño orders Justice department panel of state prosecutors to file the corresponding information for the criminal charges.

May 13, 2003—Strunk is arrested by US marshals in the eastern district of California.

May 30, 2003—US federal magistrate Gregory Hollows rules that Strunk will remain in the Sacramento county jail while awaiting a July 28 extradition hearing saying that Strunk was a "flight risk" and that his actions supposed he "will do what he must do to avoid appearing in the Philippines."

June 29, 2003—DOJ looks into reports that the NBI lost a vital document in the case against Strunk.

July 12, 2003—DOJ turns over to the DFA a formal request to the United States to extradite Strunk. The request contained all the "essential evidence" needed for his extradition, except for a missing document in which Strunk made a promise to return to the country. Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said.

July 8, 2003—Hearing was begun.

Sept. 18, 2003—Lawyers of Strunk begin the courtroom battle to block their client's extradition to the Philippines.

Nov. 12, 2003—Judge Hollows denies the DOJ request for Strunk to be extradited as Model, the person who lingered him, had recanted his confession. The decision not to extradite Strunk cannot be appealed, according to Alma Mallonga, Strunk's lawyer. He's released from jail.

Nov. 13, 2003—In an interview with The Standard Press, Strunk denies killing Blanca and says he lost all his possession because of his death and calls allegations of a dispute over money absurd.

Sept. 28, 2004—Strunk asks the Court of Appeals to reconsider its decision denying his petition to quash the murder case against him for the killing of his wife.

Feb. 18, 2005—The Court of Appeals affirms its previous decision upholding the filing of murder charges against Strunk for the killing of his wife.

March 2005—Strunk, through lawyers from the Sigua-Sison-Reyna Law Office, files a petition asking the Supreme Court to stop the serving of his arrest warrant. He also asks the high court to throw out the case against him.

April 12, 2005—Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez signs into the original copy of the extradition petition against Strunk has been lost to secretaries.

Nov. 7, 2006—Secretary Gonzalez vows to speed up Strunk's extradition, saying there are plans to make another bid for Strunk's extradition.

Source: PDI archives

The person involved is already dead. If he really killed Jerry (Blanca's nickname), there is already judgment from God," Sandoz added.

Torres, however, declined to comment on Strunk's death and refer you official reactions from Bong Pineda.

Sandoz said that Torres would not be granting any interviews to media for now.

Delia Razon, another close friend of Blanca, also expressed hope that Strunk's demise would bring Blanca's murder case to a close.

"It's finally over," said Razon, a 1970s musical star and fellow talented player of Blanca in RJS Presents.

"I just hope that Strunk left a suicide note, to clarify things," she noted. "Nida didn't deserve to die that way."

Situating in terms of Strunk's death, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said:

'Moot and academic'

"Everything will go with him to the grave."

Gonzalez, however, said he has not received any official communication from the US government, adding that the government had filed a second extradition case against Strunk.

"Now that he's dead, his extradition [and] murder case are already moot and academic," he added.

Authorities were trying to prove that Strunk ordered Blanca killed because of money and property. They said Strunk had amassed debts and was threatened by Blanca before she was killed.

The body of Blanca (Jennifer Jones in real life), who was stabbed to death on Nov. 6, 2001, was found in the car park of Atlanta Center in Greenhills, San Juan.

Her husband's suicide brings closure to the murder case. "It's God Himself who has acted."

A renowned Christian, Sandoz declared "the hand of God" to this recent development.

In his lawyer's statement, where the left as if Strunk's murder case avoided murder case, Sandoz said that the "had killed everything to the Lord ... It's here on years. If we couldn't get justice on earth ... I would seek it from the Lord, the best judge."

She clarified, however, that she was not rejoicing over Strunk's death. "At this point, it's best to extend compassion to him and his family," she said. Sandoz said Strunk wanted him to commit suicide ... But, for a person to be pushed to end his own life ... he must've been in pain. His conscience must've been bothering him."

Strunk lawyer sad

In a statement, lawyer Alma Mallonga, Strunk's counsel in the Philippines, expressed concern that his death would spur further speculation linking him to Blanca's murder.

"We, his lawyers are deeply saddened by news of that Strunk's death and concerned that this will be misinterpreted upon by some to further connect him to the death of Nida Blanca," Mallonga further said.

"Mr. Strunk loved his fiancee, who was his wife for 20 years. He was highly despondent over her death. He struggled mightily to rebuild his life without her. But obviously, he failed. In his suicide, he joins her in death and I have no confidence but only good intentions to continue linking him to the crime. The unfounded accusations should now stop," Mallonga added.

Mallonga revealed Strunk had been planning to write a book on the murder of his wife.

"He prayed that he finds the peace that eluded him in his life after Nida Blanca."

Case continues

But Pasay Prosecutor Dilbert Pineda said the death of Strunk will not affect the case against him. He said that other suspects in the case, like Philip Model and Mike Bautista are still alive.

"After pa rin ang kaso (The case will still continue). Model is still alive to [sic] and so is Bautista, in alleged co-conspiracy," Ayuda said. "They are the keys to the investigation."

Model is detained at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) while Bautista is still missing. Another still unidentified male suspect is also at large, Ayuda said.

Acosta said the case no longer involves Justice for Blanca but is already a "People of the Philippines versus" the killers.

The National Bureau of Investigation also said the case against the other suspects in Blanca's murder are not compromised.

Lawyer Edmund Arugay, NBI deputy director for technical services, said that while death will extinguish one's criminal liability, there are other suspects charged in the murder case.

"Philip Model is in jail, so the case goes on," Arugay, however, heard the NBI-led Capital Region which used to handle the murder case.

Strunk was implicated in the killing of his wife in November 2001 by Model, who claimed Strunk had hired him to kill Blanca.

Extradition rejected

The NBI eventually charged Strunk as the mastermind for Blanca's murder in July 2002 but Strunk managed to leave for the US at exit. a his ailing mother, Helen Strunk, who was dying of cancer, before he could be charged. She died on Jan. 10, 2003, two days before Strunk arrived in San Jose.

Strunk never returned to the Philippines.

In May 2003, however, federal agents, acting on an extradition request from the Philippine government, arrested Strunk and placed him in the Sacramento County Jail pending an extradition hearing.

But a US federal court later threw out the extradition request because Philippine authorities failed to establish Strunk's guilt after Model's recantation. Strunk was then ordered released from jail.

After his mother's death, Strunk remained in Tracy in the family home on Whittier Avenue. He worked for a time as a sales clerk at the Sears store in West Valley Mall.

Strunk has been a Tracy City resident since October 2005. He became an employee of the city working as a cements operator for the city's public works Channel. 26. He resigned in January of this year.

US police investigators said Strunk "has suffered depression from a hell from a second floor balcony."

Strunk was found dead on the parking lot outside the Tracy fire around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, said Matt Robinson, Tracy police public information officer.

"Yes, he did," Robinson told Inquirer not in a phone interview, when asked if Strunk committed suicide.

There were also no indications of foul play, said Robinson.

Police responded after a woman reported that she found a man bleeding from the head and unconscious in the parking lot of Tracy fire.

Evidence of suicide

The woman told police he was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Police arrived and called the San Joaquin County Coroner shortly afterward.

A Tracy police report said that "evidence [was found] in his room that indicates Strunk took his own life."

But Strunk's sister Sharon Sousa doubted the theory of police that her brother committed suicide, according to sanjoaquin.com.

"That wouldn't have been something that Roger wouldn't have done." Sousa was quoted as saying. "We really feel like it would have been an accident."

She added that it made no sense that her brother would jump from a second-story balcony a drop of about 20 feet.

"I don't know how they came up with that. That would be very out of character for my brother," said Sousa.

Razon and Sanchez both said they didn't have first memories of Strunk.

Sanchez, relayed: "I believe that he wasn't acting that [tension] late ... [until] [tension] after. He was an actor ... [and] Nida loved him as."

"He is not the type to kill. I think there was an instance to kill Dolly," Sanchez added.

"Maybe his conscience was bothering him, who knows. That's enough [act] to [see] God for me, if he really did it," Sanchez said. "It was allowed by God to happen."

One-hit wonder

"Years ago, Rod had a chance," Razon recalled. "With herself sold tickets to her friends, who came to fill [seats to watch him."

Strunk, known earlier in his show biz career as Rod Lauren, had one hit song "[I Had a Girl" which reached No. 21 on the Billboard list in 1966].

He appeared in several GE television programs ("The Jeff Stevens Show" and "Alfred Hitchcock Presents") and movies ("Law of the Lawless" and "The Crowing Hand").

According to Tracy Press, Strunk met Blanca while he was shooting a war movie ("Once Before I Die") in the Philippines in 1964 and they married in Las Vegas in 1979. The two moved to Manila where they lived for 22 years.

Last December, Strunk reportedly told friends he was marrying another woman in Redding, Oregon. According to sanjoaquin.com, that marriage broke up within a few months.

In a statement, Mallonga said Strunk's passion at the Tracy fair was connected to his recent separation from his new wife, whom she did not name.

"He (Strunk) had married anew but recently separated, which is why he was staying in a hotel at the time of his death," Mallonga said in the statement read on ABS-CBN's show "Damalig" on Saturday. With reports from Gerry Pogay and Tina G. Santos

ROD STRUNK: The real estate he lives in Tracy, California, also is a parking lot just like his wife Nida Blanca six years ago, Case closed, at last!

He never reached hoped-for heights

A NATIVE OF FRESNO, ROGER "ROD" Strunk moved to Tracy, California, in 1963 with his parents. His father, Larry Strunk, taught at West Park School and later became a coachehouse of the Southern Pacific. His mother was a church organist and a teacher.

Strunk attended Tracy schools, was a cousin for the local paper Tracy Press and graduated in 1957 from Tracy High School, where he appeared in school plays and played trombone in the school band.

It was in Fresno in 1959 that he began singing in local clubs. A recording executive liked his easy-listening style that was started with the increasingly popular rock 'n' roll genre and offered him an audition. He received an RCA recording contract and took on the professional name of Rod Lauren.

Strunk cut several records that had some success, but his recording career never climbed to hoped-for heights. He coincided his career by singing in clubs in Southern California and Las Vegas lounges while appearing in several action movies.

Meeting Nida

In 1964, he went to the Philippines for the filming of a movie, and it was there that he met Nida Blanca, then a rising Filipino star. He shuttled between the Philippines and Southern California before he and Blanca were married in 1979. He then became a permanent resident of Manila and an actor, photographed companion for his wife, who appeared in films and on TV serials and as a talk-show host.

Jeffrey Rosette, his San Francisco attorney, on hearing of Strunk's death Thursday said most of the apparent suicide will receive major coverage in the Philippines, where the murdered member of his wife remains a major public figure.

Strunk is survived by a sister, Blanche Grove, who has lived in Lafayette Beach, Santa Cruz County Another sister, Tammy Saddle, died three years ago.

Turning Negros into ethanol hub gets GMA nod

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday pushed for the establishment of an ethanol corridor on Negros island to promote the production of ethanol in the area.

The President said an ethanol industry in the area would help the Central Philippines Sugar Region field at the New Bacolod-Silay Airport that the member areas of the Central Philippines Sugar Region (Cesrea), in the north in Tarlac to Negros Occidental, in the south.

Ethanol is an alcohol-based alternative fuel produced by fermenting and distilling sugar and starchy crops that had been converted to simple sugars. It is used to improve the octane quality of gasoline.

In her State of the Nation Address in July last year, President Arroyo had cited Negros, especially San Carlos and Tarlaing Valley as the site of ethanol projects.

San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. is building the first ethanol plant in the country at the San Carlos Agro-Industrial Economic Zone in northern Negros.

Scheduled to start commercial operations in October 2008, the San Carlos bioethanol plant will produce 125,000 liters of fuel grade ethanol daily.

The President pointed out that ethanol produced from sugarcane and geothermal power which is abundant in Negros is much better for the environment than coal and fuel oil.

"Investing in vital infrastructure includes building up our environment as a collection of our communities in our quality of life. People need to breathe cheap air and power in clean water while we also build manufacturing," she said.

The Confederation of Sugar Producer Associations has submitted to the President a proposal to accelerate the production of ethanol.

In this proposal, the sugar producers said their objective is to accelerate the production of ethanol using the existing production capabilities of the sugar industry, and to provide the guided relief to the sugarcane producers by absorbing excess sugar for conversion to ethanol.

The confederation, however, said government assistance would be needed to construct private sidetracks to distilleries, purchase ethanol, and to finance a machine to process anhydrous alcohol.

Sugar Regulatory Administrator Jaime Lorenzo said there were currently 200,000 metric tons of excess sugar. One ton of sugar is equivalent to 516 liters of ethanol, he said.

Pinoy caregivers in Britain face immigration woes

GLOUCESTER CITY, ENGLAND—FILIPINO senior health aides who are not permanent residents of Britain have rough sailing with the early implementation of an immigration policy that seeks to regulate caregivers here.

Jamal Hanif Jr., Philippine labor attaché in Britain, said the policy was an offshoot of Britain Home Office's Points Based Migration System.

Under the new scheme, only food nurses with relevant three-year experience and a National Vocational Qualification (E) course can work as food carers, or care that their work permits be renewed if they are not permanent residents.

"This means a Filipino food nurse who is not a permanent resident of this country may encounter difficulties in renewing his work permit. He runs the risk of losing arm home for lack of qualifications," a lawyer said during the first anniversary celebration of the Filipino Health Workers of Gloucester last week.

But Hanif expressed hope the British government would make exceptions and renew the work permits of those already in Britain. For instance, the nurses who worked here should be eligible to apply for permanent residency in Britain if he has worked here five years.

Hanif, along with Philippine ambassador to Britain, Edgardo Espiritu, went to the Home Office to lobby for the exception three weeks ago.

At least 10 food nurses sought the help of the Philippine Embassy in London since the policy was enforced in May this year. RGA
Pueblo, Contributor

Businessman seeks judge's inhibition

A BUSINESSMAN HAS ASKED THE COURT of Appeals to compel a Makati judge to inhibit himself from cases involving an exclusive golf club due to alleged grave abuse of discretion.

Rodolfo S. Feliciano, chair of RFL Philippines, filed the petition for certiorari to the appellate court after Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Cesar O. Untalan denied his request for an injunction against Manila Golf and Country Club in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Feliciano, through his lawyers, claimed that Untalan had acted with grave abuse of discretion with his alleged prejudgment of a case filed by Feliciano against the golf club.

The case stemmed from MCCC's indefinite suspension of Feliciano and his having barred from playing in club tournaments after Feliciano complained about an incident that happened during the club's annual golf tournament.

Feliciano said in his affidavit that tournament organizers did not take his complaint lightly and instead told him to just accept the tournament rules.

An organizer filed a complaint with the MCCC board of directors against Feliciano over the incident. The board slapped Feliciano with a one-year suspension and a strong reprimand for unprofessionally behavior on top of a three-year ban on participating in MCCC's annual golf tournament.

Feliciano filed an appeal, which was referred to a committee, but shortly after that, the MCCC board of directors sold out on Feliciano's appeal, citing a provision in the club's bylaws.

Feliciano presented the MCCC board's decision and filed an injunction against it in the Makati RTC.

Meet lone woman Marine in thick of Basilan fighting

RAMPAGING TOUGH AND FOCUSED during the deadly encounter in Basilan, Marine 2nd Lt. Ruvena Mayuela recounts in the helpdesk that "deep inside me, I wanted to cry. I wanted to shout."

From page A1

the first female Marine officer "who avenged herself in the war in Mindanao, especially in Basilan."

Her father's, brothers' homage

Mayuela completed a degree in psychology at the Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga City in 1995 before she joined the Marine Corps.

She said she was just following her father's footsteps.

Pedro Mayuela has retired from the Marine Corps. Apart from Weng, his elder son, Emanuel, is also a Marine. Another son is with the Philippine Navy but is now assigned to the Presidential Security Guard.

A basketball varsity player during her college days, Weng also loves computers, photography and participating in beauty contests.

After college, she applied for recruitment in the Marine Officer Basic Course and passed the examinations.

There is no love interest yet for Weng. Her "boyfriend" is her V150 Commando, which she recently named Albarka, she said.

First and only

Brig. Gen. Ernesto Alivio, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade, also spoke of Weng as the first female Marine officer assigned to combat duty.

"She is the first and the only lady officer [thus assigned]. The rest are mostly assigned to office and headquarters duties," Alivio said.

Albaga said the last enlisted woman Marine was reassigned to headquarters.

He identified the second woman as Capt. Esperanza Cassio Tangilan, who, he said, was assigned to the Air Unit and moved to office work when she got married.

He said the rest of the female Marine officers were assigned to the Provost Marshal's office, the supply unit, the finance unit, as well as to schooling abroad.

Her choice

Weng said it was her choice to be on combat duty.

"Actually, my first choice of assignment was really in combat," she said. "But my senior officer advised me to accept my assignment in Basilan because he saw the place as peaceful and safe for me."

Her senior officer was wrong. Weng Mayuela earned her spurs in the ambush in Albarka, and was among those who survived the attack.

'The slain soldiers tried their best to save the rest'

From page A1

from the war zone of the deadly encounter last Tuesday in Basilan.

Her intuition told her that something was amiss when the convoy entered the barangay at around 9 a.m. on July 10. And she was proven right.

"We were all tired then, but I sensed something wrong when we were about to enter Greatsea. I wondered whether I was the only one who noticed how eerie the place was," recalled Mayuela, a newbie in the 1st Marine Brigade.

Mayuela, 29, head of the 73rd Marine Company, had logged just two weeks on the job but she was in charge of two armored vehicles—a V-150 Commando 112 and a 105—in a military convoy when Moro Islamic Liberation Front forces engaged her group of Marines in a daylong clash in Greatsea, a barangay in Albarka Municipality Tipo-Tipo, on Tuesday.

There was something very strange to Mayuela, Marine trained. "You know that 9 a.m. is one of the busiest times in every household. There were clothes hanging on the clotheslike, but I didn't see reasons as children roamed. There was a lone man, but he walked away quickly when he saw us passing through."

At around 11:45 a.m. one of the soldiers got mired in mud, and the convoy had to stop.

Fifteen minutes later, the troops were attacked.

"We didn't know where those shots and mortar fire were coming from," said Lt. Col. Felix Almontaser, commander of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 (MBLT8), he said his men were "armed with bullets" and "balls of fire."

The fire fight lasted until 6 p.m.

Sniper fire

Mayuela said there were snipers everywhere.

"During the first engagement, I saw many of our soldiers falling down, hit by bullets," she said.

Mayuela herself was wounded in the right eye, as were the four members of her crew—two spotters, a gunner and a driver.

Still, she showed everyone what she was made of—tough and focused on executing operations, and on ensuring that her men were safe.

She said she tried her best to control her emotions: "Deep inside me, I wanted to cry. I wanted to shout. But I had to be strong and firm."

Mayuela said she turned grim when she saw more soldiers getting hit by sniper fire.

She said all she could think of then was "to focus, to make sure that I can save lives, to ensure that we'll have less casualties."

'He fell on my lap'

"Suddenly one of my men, the gunner Cpl. Christopher Villareal, fell on my lap," Mayuela said.

"His eyes, nose and shoulder were bleeding. I told him to wake up, that he can still manage. I inspected his chest and stomach and told him he was not going to die." (Villareal remains in serious condition at a hospital.)

By then, everyone in V150 Commando 112, including Mayuela, had been hit.

But when the new two soldiers in the tail end of the convoy drop to the ground, "I forgot that we were wounded."

She told the driver, L/Sgt. Jonelo Villarino, to "move back and reverse the car as they arrived in Makoie, Basilan. They are part of additional troops deployed in the area to get the rangers that killed and beheaded their comrades last Tuesday

THE WILL TO WIN is etched on the face of this Marine, one of the members of the 1st Marine Battalion of the 1st Marine Brigade who went on patrol as soon as they arrived in Makoie, Basilan. They are part of additional troops deployed in the area to get the rangers that killed and beheaded their comrades last Tuesday

and directions on our operations, and we even had casualties to overcome under the radios. He was fine, we were in situations that we prioritized our safety, and the wounded were given first from various directions," she said.

After more than two hours of negotiating the bad road under sniper fire, Mayuela's crew was able to get out of the surveillance road. Finally, while we were trying to carry the wounded man, he expired."

Eyes and ears

Mayuela credited her brief friendship with a policeman, L/Sgt. Bernard Abes, whose radio sign was 382.

"I communicated with him over SOM radio. We were in tandem always. We exchanged ideas and plans on the next move," she said.

Abes, the last radioman of the convoy, served as the troops' eyes and ears. "We gave us instructions and directions on our operations, and we even had casualties to overcome under the radios. He was fine, we were in situations that we prioritized our safety, and the wounded were given first from various directions," she said.

At around 2 p.m. on Tuesday at the height of the fighting, Mayuela finally met Abes in person.

"But it was such chat we could hardly say hi. We were all so preoccupied in trying to save the wounded and to get the others away from sniper fire," she said.

Abes helped Mayuela carry the wounded inside the tank, and told her and the crew to immediately leave the site. He said he and the others would conduct a clearing operation while the crew was to return at 4:30 a.m.

SOS call

Ramon Nabal Jr., chair of the joint ceasefire monitoring team in Basilan, said the military sounded an "SOS call" at around 10 a.m. on Tuesday prompting them to call on the MILF to disengage.

"But the fighting kept going. Pres. received reports that it stopped only at around 6 p.m.," Nabal said.

By then later, the Marines started evacuating the wounded and the dead.

Almontaser said nine of the slain soldiers were recovered at around 7:45 p.m. The corpses were loaded on a Nave for eventbound for Zamboanga City.

Basilan Gov. Joes Alvarez, wife of Basilan Rep. Rodolfo Alvarez, said that the bodies of the slain soldiers are headed in the MBLT8 headquarters at Camps Enos in Lanzilao City and got there at around 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

After being briefed, she proceeded to the ambush site at around 10 p.m. to help in the recovery of the wounded.

"I didn't know if they were soldiers or rebels. We gave priority on the wounded," the governor told the bosses.

Slaughter

Two things went from bad to worse.

According to Almontaser, Governor Alvarez's team brought "many four bodies—'all headless' or 'all mutilated'—at about 3 a.m. on Wednesday.

At around 2 p.m. on that day, the third and last team at the evacuation. Alvarez's team brought down six more bodies—all mutilated and beheaded, and found of belongings.

"What happened really pains us. We know that the soldiers were enduring, but we didn't know they had been brutally slaughtered," Almontaser said.

Alvarez recalled that during the recovery efforts, "our priorities those still breathing, and I was informed by my staff that there were others lying there."

"But no one told me they had been decapitated," she said.

When the governor's team entered the area at around 11 p.m. on Tuesday, the troops' vehicles were intact. But when they returned at dawn on Wednesday, "the ammunition were all there, and my staff told me that the soldiers had been beheaded," Alvar said.

In all, 14 Marines were killed, 10 of them beheaded, and nine were wounded.

She wept

After leaving the ambush site at around 7 p.m., Mayuela waited for Abes' call on the radio. Nothing came.

She was later told the shocking truth—that Abes was one of the soldiers found beheaded—and she wept.

Home are the heroes; GMA salutes slain Marines

From page A1

6pm) in Basilan.

Those the MILF denied beheading the 10 Marines. It said it was investigating who carried out the beheadings amid concerns that the incident could prolong the already stalled peace talks between the government and the separatists and spark new fighting.

The 14 are fairly their new names: M/Sgt. Noel Sindicta, T/Sgt. Bernard Abes, S/Sgt. Joy Galloway, S/Sgt. Gerardo Layog, S/Sgt. Cayetano Gadiano, Cpl. Ruiel Pareja, Cpl. Freddie Pelones, Cpl. Elmar Emmanuel, Cpl. Reuben Dacoscos Jr., Cpl. Bernard Alianza, Cpl. Arjenn Ocanas, Cpl. Emmanuel Bong, Cpl. Estelito Jamilon and Cpl. Wilfredo Lamban.

According to the Armed Forces, the benefits for the slain Marines include P15,000 to burial assistance, some P100,000 to Special Financial Assistance, a one-time gratuity worth P1,000, scholarship grants to their children, P3,000 monthly pension and another P30,000 burial fee from the veterans office, AFP pension, commutation of unused leaves, P50,000 from Abra as Rawal, and benefits from contributions to Ang Bag and military agencies.

Punishment

In a statement she issued yesterday, Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said the government would not back out of the peace talks with the MILF but she vowed to punish the killers of the 14 Marines.

"We will not allow those who committed barbaric acts to hide under the cooperating cover of duly principled societies down to a man or, she said, adding:

"We will not allow those who killed our Marines, but we will not run away from the peace talks."

In his own statement, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said: "We give honor to these courageous men who offered their lives for the country's sake.

"To the bereaved families: I know nothing will today will ease your pain. But I want to assure you of the Filipino people's gratitude to you. We will never forget the great loss you have suffered. Reconsoled by the fact that your loved ones are now heroes of their nation."

"We will respond to this cold experience with a firm resolve to bring those hands tainted with their blood to justice. This government, with the help of our citizens, will endeavor to free our land from terrorism and finally attain lasting peace."

Sad ceremony

Ms Arroyo arrived at the VMB shortly before the plane bearing the 14 casket and the families of three of the slain Marines landed at 9:38 p.m. from Zamboanga City.

The other families, some of whom came from Legaspi City and Agusan del Sur, waited at the base for the sad reunion, and were in hysterical tears as they left the military and government officials.

More than an hour earlier, three battalions of Marines and forty honor guards in their gala uniforms assisted in position at the terminal. A platoon of 44 pallbearers, also in white and blue gala uniforms, waited at the opposite side of the tarmac.

Some 400 officers and men of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines were also on hand. The honor guards of the Marine detachment quietly waited at the lounge and on the tarmac.

As soon as the plane's rear door opened and the first casket came into view, the President saluted and the band played the honors-ing march.

The posthumous promotions were conferred after the 14 coffins were unloaded and lined up on the tarmac.

Col. Rosalinda Acuña, chief chaplain of the Army read the citations of each of the 14 Marines, blessed their remains and asked those present to say a prayer for them in the "Salutation" It gave up their lives for God and country."

The President were with briefly their one-casket in another and wrapped with the relatives.

Arlena Bautista, seven months pregnant, wept quietly as she looked at the casket of her husband Cayetano, who was married to Bautista. Ms Arroyo held her hands.

After the 50-minute ceremony, the caskets were taken in the Marine Headquarters chapel.

One-week deadline

"This is indeed a day of sorrow for the whole Armed Forces and the nation," AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said.

According to Esperon, the military will launch operations in selected areas in Albarka and selected areas in Basilan on Basilan the renegade MILF members.

He also said the government peace panel had asked the MILF, through the joint ceasefire committee, to "bring to the perpetrators of the crime who are their members."

Lt. Col. Raymundo Cuña, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, said the government had given the MILF an ultimatum to produce those who killed and mutilated the Marines.

"We've given them a deadline, within a week from now," Cuña told reporters.

Esperon said Cuña had also filed a protest before the Coordinating Committee for the Cessation of Hostilities against the killings, beheadings and violation of the ceasefire agreement.

He said the MILF should impose sanctions against its erring members, who would have to face criminal charges by the government.

Grief

The grieving families lamented the loss of their loved ones.

Jessie Pareja said her 30-year-old son should have just died by now and not mutilated and beheaded.

She recounted that a day after the ambush, when she had yet to learn about the fighting and the death of her son, she thought she heard him calling.

"He said, 'Ma!' I looked out the window, but he was not there." It was only on Thursday that she learned he was dead.

Milda Livap said she saw a TV footage of her son still alive and asking for help from a comrade.

"He was begging for help. He could have been taken to a hospital," she said, fighting back tears.

Samar villagers build their own water system

By Noemie S. Lalata
Inquirer Visayas

BASAKAL, EASTERN SAMAR—EVERY TIME MIRASOL Lava-ay Armado Jr. leaves his home on a hillside and sees a network of clean water pipes, he feels a sense of pride.

No wonder. The 56-year-old chief of barangay Pagsangpan in Oras, Samar, and his community practically built the system which now provides water for the whole community.

The water improvement project was made possible under the Sagip Ilog, Lahar sa Bulkan-par-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS).

In the past, Basakal said, the government would undertake projects in their village without consulting the people.

But under the Kalahi-CIDSS program, he said members of the community were treated as "partners in development" by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the local agencies in the Kalahi-CIDSS implementation.

In flagship community project of the government, Kalahi-CIDSS has three objectives: to empower communities, to improve local governance and to reduce poverty.

Village people are encouraged to prioritize their own needs, design their development projects and decide how to use their resources in their Kalahi-CIDSS project.

In Pagsangpan, through village meetings held beginning in early January this year, barangay residents decided that they would undertake a Level II, or communal-faucet water system improvement, project.

In succeeding gatherings, they discussed the implementation of the project, the canvassing of materials and the periodic audit of expenses.

No water, no deep

Since Pagsangpan shared the same water shortage problem with adjacent barangay Tighaonon, the two communities decided to jointly implement the water system rehabilitation project.

For years, Pagsangpan and Tighaonon suffered from very low water pressure. Residents had to wait up past midnight for water to flow from the communal faucets. There was no accessible alternative source of clean water for the two villages.

Shop-deprived waiting for water every day, the marginalized fishermen and fisherwives in these villages could not build regular jobs. The residents could not engage in productive work while the children were usually absent from class.

The villagers were sadly infected, fights would erupt among the men, while mothers worried about hygiene and the health of their children.

Last summer, the water project was finally completed, providing a steady supply of clean water to Pagsangpan and Tighaonon.

As an independently priced, Kalahi-CIDSS helps the country in attaining its commitment to the United Nations' millennium development goals (MDG), which should be met by 2015.

Safe water project

The water project here addressed the MDG targets of access to safe water supply and basic sanitation, gender disparity and even the reduction of poverty and hunger.

The total project cost of improving the water system in Pagsangpan and Tighaonon was P930,000.

Kalahi-CIDSS provided a grant of P650,702, the local government of Oras as counterpart of P170,843, while the two barangays themselves shelled in P71,000 each. The remaining P28,578 came from expenses of the supervising villagers who worked on the project, which was agreed upon in an assembly, Basakal said.

He recalled that on their early mornings in the village, plaza cum basketball court, the men were jubilantly shouting about the project, although, he said, usually members were quiet and vocal about wanting the project done.

Eventually, the men were sometimes of the disappearance of the project and started participating in the village meetings.

Transparency

Many villagers volunteered to join the barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC), which had the support of the barangay councilor, Heidi Pagsangpan and Tighaonon.

Composed of volunteers selected by the community, the BSPMC reviews the physical progress of the project and the financial reports that the committee later presented to the barangay assembly for approval.

Transparency was practiced all throughout the project implementation.

Prices of materials were discussed during the barangay assembly as the entire village knew which stores offered quality materials at lower cost, Basakal.

And when the materials were delivered to the village, photo showed everybody—the men, members and some older children—joined in to inspect the types and other materials.

Basakal recalled that some water pipes were rejected because the thread had dents, but the supplier changed them with new ones.

Although the vigilance of the villagers helped in preventing land seizure, the Kalahi-CIDSS put safeguards to avoid the misappropriation of funds.

For example, the Kalahi-CIDSS central office sent the project funds directly to the barangay and not to the municipal government or the Kalahi-CIDSS field office. The signatories of checks and vouchers for cash purchases were the barangay treasurer, the BSPMC chair and Kalahi-CIDSS area coordinator.

Payments for materials, which were delivered on site, were also made at the concerned business.

Aside from these safeguards, Kalahi-CIDSS official had a grievance redress system, which encouraged all villagers to work together in resolving complaints and problems relative to project implementation.

The project in Pagsangpan and Tighaonon was not only one of the 20 Kalahi-CIDSS projects in Parsons, a coastal town located about 90 km south of Tacloban City.

Unfortunately the new mayor, Nilo Bathan, decided to fix-engage from the Kalahi-CIDSS, keeping villagers of Pagsangpan and Tighaonon from pursuing their new project under the program, according to Bed Mendoza, social monitoring officer of Kalahi-CIDSS in the region.

Newsman R. Naval; 73

RETIRED JOURNALIST REYNALDO (Nardo) Jacinto Naval passed away Thursday at De La Salle University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite. He would have turned 74 on July 16 after suffering a stroke.

Naval started his profession in the early 1950s as a reporter for the Philippine News Service. He now worked at the Manila Chronicle where he stayed for 21 years, from 1961 until 1972 when it was shut down at the start of martial law.

He joined the Times Journal after it opened in 1973 and served as its managing editor for eight years. Toward the end of his stint at the Journal, one of the stories he wrote that he took pride in was his interview of Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. at Fort Bonifacio.

In 1980, together with his family, he moved to the United States and retired as press attaché and information counselor at the Philippine Embassy in Washington. He resigned from the embassy some time before the 1986 People Power revolt and joined a private accounting firm, where he worked until his retirement in 2001. Shortly after, he came back to the Philippines to spend.

Since his return, Naval had been writing about significant events in the Philippines for the Philippine Reporter in New York and Manila Mail in Philadelphia.

His death came three years after his wife, Marianne, passed away. He is survived by his children Susan and Alice Khan, Karen and John Russell, Larry, Bernie and Sally Alpada, Chris and and Amy Ablaza, Jerry Jr. and Cris, Ray III and Arlene, his sister Cecilia, 19 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

His body lies at La Funeraria Paz Sucat in Pantheon City Crematorium is set for Wednesday.

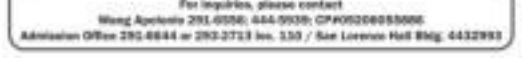
M. P. Garcia; 94

MANUEL P. GARCIA, 94, OF MACABEBE, Pampanga, died on July 11 at his home in Subipan, Ipguit.

He is survived by his wife Lignan, sons Fel and Jessy; daughters Lynn, Josefina, Jessy, Bel-Jo, Lita and Claudia; sons-in-law Conrado Lumanlan and John Coy; and daughters-in-law Hajal, Ofelia, May and Lani.

He is also survived by 20 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

His body lies at #30 Cardona, Subipan, Ipguit, Pampanga. Interment will be on July 17.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

The dud stops here

SIXTY YEARS AFTER IT WAS INTRODUCED, THE B-52 bomber is still a formidable mainstay of the US Air Force. Its soul of steel, age isn't necessarily a deterrent to the weapon system's effectiveness. The machine guns, first developed in World War II, remain the mainstay of armies around the world and again, the US Army uses some heavy machine guns manufactured for the Korean War, or which were designed in World War II. But arm a B-52 bomber with bombs that don't explode, or use a well-maintained machine gun but feed it dummy bullets, and the weapon system becomes ineffectual.

EDITORIAL

The ambush of the Philippine Marines in Tipo-Tipo was particularly tragic, because for all their value to battle, our troops ended up with equipment that failed them. The 81-mm dud rounds fired by the mortars of the First Marine Brigade said it all: as did the explanations put forward by the Armed Forces. Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP public information chief said the mortar rounds came from the United States, that they hadn't displayed any defects during testing, but that the rounds could have been exposed to harsh conditions in the field, which resulted in the rounds proving to be duds.

Acting Secretary of National Defense Norberto Gonzales weighed in by saying the President ordered him to "fast-track" modernization. He went further to castigate past efforts (and pin the blame on his predecessors!). He said, "We've been like scrap-heap-dealers in our modernization programs, getting second-hand equipment for our soldiers. We're not doing that anymore."

Bacarro and Gonzales are practicing the art of evading blame by passing the blame: Bacarro to the logistical arm of the various AFP services; Gonzales to his predecessors and the idea that refurbished or second-hand military equipment is, by its very nature, defective—which calls into question the longstanding policy of accepting military aid in the form of materiel from allies (specifically, the United States, and, increasingly, Australia).

Neither attitude solves the problem. Such statements only serve to magnify how serious the problem is: as much as procurement may need reexamination, the gigantic shortcoming in the AFP exposed yet again, is the incompetence that characterizes the maintenance (in)capabilities of the military. Gonzales' own statements are along the lines of an armchair warrior demanding shiny new toys, when military procurement is not a toy-shopping expedition. New isn't necessarily better, and allied militaries are not in the habit of passing on defective weapons systems as military assistance. The problem is to how our military is unable to keep things functioning.

Ultimately, the issue is how, as the third longest serving president in our country's history, President Macapagal-Arroyo has refused to come to terms with the fact that the military buck stops at her desk. It has been six years since the assumed office; and four years since the Oakwood mutiny: an act of rebellion whose motivating complaints have increasingly been validated over time. There has been time for substantive reform; but her genius for turning even loyal appeals (which may have the Magdalo brigade their efforts) into outright confrontations (after meeting personally with her, the mutineers revolted), and her father-stelove, stills utility attitude to governance and reform, are the problem.

The criticisms she has been subjected to, after all, have been validated and not discredited, over time.

First, the arrest of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia proved that the corruption that the paying officers in the revolt were complaining about was true. Second, the President's own Feliciano Commission pointed out that the grievances were genuinely felt, and not manufactured (and it advised the appointment of civilian heads of the Department of National Defense, which she President blithely ignored when Avelino Cruz resigned, not least because of policy differences over peacekeeping, martial law and nursing the armed forces in elections were concerned).

And third, the long list of things that went wrong for the Marines in Tipo-Tipo (radio communications from HQ broke down; they fought nine hours without any effective means to reinforce them or evacuate them; their weapons failed) validates the mutineers' complaints of substandard equipment and inferior maintenance of ordnance and supplies.

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'Desaparecidos'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE NAME PRIMITIVO MIJARES IS UNFAMILIAR to many young people in the generation, but for us who became lawyers during the '60s in the crusading city of the Manila Chronicle where he was a reporter on the City Hall beat. He studied in the Lyceum College of Law with his future wife who later became a judge, but I did not note if he graduated and also became a lawyer. He was one of my bright but often absent students in my morning class in Constitutional Law but I was much with him when Mijares imposed martial law in 1972.

Unlike my memory is vivid, it was Tito who introduced or popularized the phrase "desaparecidos" during the martial law dictatorship. It was the title of a book he had repeatedly authored but was widely read by the enemies of that regime like the speeches of Ninoy Aquino in the United States smashing the then Batasang. I think I owned or borrowed a copy of that book that must have been lost in recent years from friend to friend despite the watchful eyes of the military.

The book was a scorching attack on the abuses of Marcos and his family and cronies during that shameful period. It arose of how the dictator and his wife exercised absolute and supreme authority over the nation, including a repressed press, an intimidated judiciary, and ordinary citizens regimented through the barrel of the gun. It was a ruthless deflation of the historical government that was hailed by foreign admirers as enlightened.

Many people wanted to congratulate the author for his courage, but Primitivo Mijares was mysteriously nowhere to be found. Suddenly he was unexpectedly. It was common knowledge that any person who was daring enough to publicly criticize the conjugal dictatorship would provoke dreadful retribution, and the young idealistic scrivener would not be an exception.

The case of Bobby Ouano and his driver, his manager Corbito, is too recent to be forgotten or dismissed. One night in 2000, they supposedly were kidnapped from a mushroom mall, somebody is munching on a tainted Ducot, a public television man, was traveling in transit in the media. He never did, or could. Somewhere on their way they were intercepted and persuaded, or coerced, to change his plan. They were found missing since then, and it is feared they have been murdered by two agents of the law who have fled to the United States.

And now we have the mystery of Jonas Burgos, who was arrested by men inside and outside a mall on April 30 and has not resurfaced since then. Like his father, the late Jose Burgos who was a courageous foe of Marcos during the desperate, years since have been taken for his critical views against the present government. The military denies any part in his disappearance, but given the strong prima facie evidence against it, it is like the boy who cried "Wolf!" too often.

The problem of the disappearances is a worldwide malignancy that has not spared the Philippines, which is in fact now regarded as a principal venue of this offense against the human rights of its victims. Under the supposed cessation of martial law, the number of missing persons strongly presented in news have risen to by the Armed Forces has considerably increased even under Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and especially Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Commission on Human Rights is waging a hampered combine against the problem of disappearances because it is allowed by the Constitution to only investigate violations of human rights and not to adjudicate on them. Congress' perfected bodies such as the SEC and the NLRC. They are only statutory bodies but they have more law than both components put together, as counsel (DB).

Walk the talk

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A YOUNG MAN hired by a supermarket. On his first day of work, he was greeted by the manager who gave him a broom and said, "Here, start sweeping."

"But I'm a college graduate," protested the young man.

"Oh, I'm sorry, I did not realize that. Here, I'll show you how," said the manager.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 10: 25-37), Jesus, at the parable of the Good Samaritan, responds to the so-called expert of religion and love, and shows them that the human line in loving is not so much doctrine, laws, affiliations or ethics, but concrete service and compassion. It's not those who are good in talk, but those who walk the talk, that are blessed and worthy in God's eyes. So the message in Deuteronomy 30 says:

* * *

I just came from Tabuk, Kalinga, the place where Fr. Francis Shalley, SVD walked the earth for the last time on this side on April 3. It has been about months now since he was murdered. There have been a lot of talks, a lot of promises, a lot of press releases regarding the solution of his murder, but up to now, they are just talks. We are still crying, hoping and waiting for justice. Of late, we decide to try to do more by "just make six" while the leaders of our government are continue talking and talking!

* * *

Living in Tabuk brings back a lot of memories... Indeed, as a young missionary in La Paz, Abra, I myself was in the fields, climbing mountains, crossing rivers, sweating it out, getting drenched in the rain. In spite of deprivations, loneliness and even persecutions, life was simple, and love was real and concrete. The challenge for all of us as we grow older is not to fall into complacency and rationalization that zeal and vision are only for the young. We Lord reminds us today that love is for a lifetime, and that love should be nourished by the here and now, enhanced we are, whatever we do, and wherever we are, right now.

* * *

"What's Job in it? This is a story about four people named "Everybody," "Somebody," "Nobody" and "Nobody." There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done! (Anbelmark)

* * *

Christmas is the same six months away still, but the time for loving and giving is here and now. Today, find time to look at your enemy, your foe, your rival, your opponent, your boss. Start with your solitude learning with things you don't even see or need. Make out a chart or scratch down notes to your favorite charity. Visit or call someone and tell them you love, you forgive or make peace with them. Do it for the sake of God. Yes, be good yourself! Love and be at peace.

* * *

We will be in Palau on July 30-22 to hold Masses and give mission talks, especially to our Filipino communities in that island to the south. Please continue to remember us and to love continues in each and everyone of us. Have you really reached out to someone today? Have you gone beyond your comfort zones? Have you given up your pride and selfishness and breakdown your business toward reaching?

* * *

Don't forget July 16 is the Feast of our Lady of Mt. Carmel. We remember the Carmelite contemplative nuns and our other "hidden" brothers and sisters who spend their whole lives loving God and humanity in a very basic, but and special way. We, they say little who love much.

* * *

A moment of with the Lord:

Lord, help me not just to talk and talk, but to walk my talk. Amen.

Law, mathematics and the party-list system

WITH DUE RESPECT
Antonio V. Pangalangan

LAST WEEK, DEAN RAUL C. PANGALANGAN, who I believe should have been named to the Supreme Court months ago, wrote on the "party-list mechanism." Earlier, Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas—a friend to all "experiments," Law-wise, the Constitution on flexibility named the 15 party-list winners that are each entitled to one "qualifying" seat in the House of Representatives.

Then, mathematics intervenes. The Comelec quattro, however, in which of those winners are entitled to more than one seat? Faced with both law and mathematics, the answer was dictated by the Supreme Court in "Veterans Federation Party vs. Comelec" (Oct. 6, 2000): It is to ignore both, the decision—rendering the controversy and the seeming opinions—was composed of 12 regulars, double-spaced pages. I think that this case-nearly seems in size of the book debated during my 11 years in the Court.

Anyway, the Court said that entitlement to party-list seats could be computed pursuant to "four formidable parameters" required by the Constitution and Republic Act 7941 (The Party-List Law) namely:

"First, the twenty percent allocation—the constitutional number of all party-list congressmen shall not exceed twenty percent of the total membership of the chamber of Representatives, including those elected under the party lists.

"Second, the two percent threshold—only those parties garnering a minimum of two percent of the total valid votes cast for the party-list system are qualified to have a seat in the House of Representatives;

"Third, three-seat seat limit—each qualified party is regardless of the number of votes it obtained, is entitled to a maximum of three seats, that is, one qualifying and two additional seats; [and]

"Fourth, proportional representation—the additional seats which a party is entitled to shall be computed "in proportion to their total number of votes."

Some of the litigants argued that the statutory 2 percent threshold and three-seat limit were arbitrary and unconstitutional. They claimed that the 20 percent allocation, a constitutional provision, is mandatory and not merely a ceiling; thus, it should be filled all the time. To do that, only those parties obtaining less than 2 percent of the vote votes should be declared winners, and parties garnering huge votes should get more than three seats.

However, the Court unanimously ruled that the 2 percent threshold and the three-seat limit were not unconstitutional. After all, the Constitution itself said that the majority of the party-list seats shall be "provided by law." Clearly, Congress had been granted wide latitude in designing the 50 percent party-list system. What decided the Court was on how to interpret the four legal parameters into constitutional formulas that would not result in "distortions of the additional seat(s)—if any—of the qualified parties.

Rejected formulas. Initially, a writer member of the Court proposed that all parties that obtained 2 percent of the votes should each get one seat, those that garnered 4 percent should get two seats, those that garnered 6 percent should get three seats, and so on. This proposal had the advantage of being easy to understand and to use.

However, problems would arise when candidates get top ranked votes, as when Party 6 gets 20 percent, 8, 10 percent, and 12 percent. Then, it would be entitled to 10 seats, 8 to five and 6 to three, thereby violating the three-seat limit. Also, the proposal ignored the proportional representation requirement. Hence, the Court—including this proponent—discarded it.

Nine others up was the "Veterans Formula" re-

posed by Justice Vicente V. Mendoza. This is the formulation used in the German Bundestag where one-half of the seats are filled by the party lists. Alas, there are no seats. Both Senator Osmeña first discouraged the proliferation of small parties. In contrast, RA 7941—as already mentioned—imposed a three-seat limit precisely to encourage small parties. These distinctions made the Mendoza formula inappropriate to our laws.

Pangasinan formula. Because the foregoing proposals were rejected by the Court, I had to devise a methodology that would "not contravene, circumvent or amend" the four mandate parameters. Hence, the framers of the Justice assigned my assistant, Tina, I was unable to enter the division. The original ponente, Justice Mendoza—joined by two others—penned the dissent. Justice Josue Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno wrote a concurring opinion.

Simply stated, the initial step, under this methodology is to determine the additional seats to be given the party obtaining the highest number of votes. If the supervisor or "first party" obtains four or more but less than 6 percent of the total votes cast, it gets one three seat. If it garners six or more percent, it gets two seats in addition to its three seats. The additional seats to be given the rest of the qualified parties can be "proportionately" computed by dividing the number of votes of the non-second party by the number of votes for the first party. The result is then multiplied by the number of seats allocated to the supervisor.

To be sure, the Pangasinan formula has been criticized. Nonetheless, no viable alternative that takes into account all the four parameters has been successfully advanced. Thus, the Court unanimously reiterated it in "Barangay Association for Genuine Concern" (March 15, 2004) and "BANAT vs. Comelec" (April 13, 2004). Next Sunday I will discuss the calculations in my formula.

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Comments are welcome at jbalfpangalangan@email.com.

Flying barefoot

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE
Patricia Evangelista

I AM A MAN IN THE SUMMER OF 2006, JUST SIX AND ONE-HOUSE in the dark dining room of the El Orleans in Intramuros. I had dragged my black costume of a tuxedo three times ago, just ordered mushroomed hanging on wooden blinds, my narrow rectangle steps to a bedroom where the shower's water separated from the bed sprawl by thin plastic curtains painted with black and white cows. When I wedged downstairs, this was

in the dining room, missing pineapple and organizing the very conversation to remark.

The first few days were also when rich scientists, carefully, very precisely planned, would wake me up at three in the morning and send me traveling out of the bedroom into the rain to arrest many plans and scraps of paper I was holding in my hand. I was sure, if I knew it were a line of poetry, I thought there was something desperately romantic about walking in the dark and finding miserable. I remember sitting in El Orleans one night, surrounded by ten to fifteen, reading from my sketchbook of bird drawn, and hearing all my handwritten and scrapbook and my own voice, and I thought that it was beautiful. Looking at me, I remember believing, at that moment, with the clear, unshakeable certainty of the almost drunk, that Ana cared, and that in spite of the also unshakeable certainty that I was being used-playing fool, this would understand.

Until that time, I had only been in May. Ana who only a matter of days, another poet on the roof people bound for the river-arrels has read Rimbaud's Illuminations in Dominguez. I find that strange now, the ideas but there was a time I didn't know Ana, even if it was only a little more than a year ago when I followed her and her followers and soldiers outside down the boulevard. Ana who, the one who first put a cigarette into my clumsy hands, and who told me she wanted me. I remember seeing her curvy in front of a boutique interior store, dropped in a solely gray dress with slim straps, fake jewels sparkling on her hair. I remember her wrapping each of the scented pens in, remember telling me I could keep the pink one, remember the question. She would not on that question, again and again, over the next year, and it's only recently that I've realized that the lovely girl with a laugh only unloosed on her inside had very little idea of how beautiful she was.

When we were home to the gated of our various jobs, for me, revised in the pattern of the sidewalk, wasn't of that of Ilocos, half in despair over whether we were artists or not, it was Ana who stayed, just a little longer, just enough to say goodbye in her sea, her all made promises, to keep in touch, to come back in a year, for some sort of grand reunion to celebrate whatever it was we were doing, to write and make love-making the one-fried chicken drowned in thick ketchup. That reunion never happened, not what it was supposed to. There was work, and empty bank accounts, and the hope that we could always kiss another time since it was easier.

We had our chance to see Ana Nicolas a year ago, when Ana was visiting. We couldn't find her in the glass coffin in the courtroom, funeral parlor, that wasn't her, hands clasped over a waxy dressed all in stiff white. Ana was my wife, eyes gazing in a flowing shirt, whose eyes lit up in surprise by the sidewalk, the young student who hugged about the daughter-in-law Ana called female warrior, female knowledge, the woman whose very stillness pulled with aching life.

I am familiar enough with death to accept how it happens, old enough to have seen the bullet wounds and the angulated limbs of dying and dying and dying and dying, tapped blanks of pain. I understand that she would be a brother, a terrible planet, and then people die. I know all this, but still that had nothing to do with Ana.

Not the pill where rules can admit him a mutiny knows and a concealment review with one too many inches of love ... one day when you're not looking, you're not looking, and you're the adult, when most caught at the crook of a man's branches.

That Ana, who would meet in Manila only for a night, "because I saw my little girl." Ana, who made it a weekend and I rented water in air. My Ana, who kissed at my Cebu hotel room and laughed as I hesitated in bed, who giggled when we talked about sex and pretended to feel huge orgasmic rules, because she was jumped on the backs of motorcycles to chase lights, understood my need to keep talking after most lovers.

There are people, sometimes, who feel too much, eat too much, come too close to sorrow. There are many things I learned from him. Last month, Ana turned 29, and admitted in her first time thirtieth column that there were still many things she wanted to do—include theory romance in her grocery list, learn the names of flowers, teach her daughter the science of stars. I want to add to that list: learn to ride small talk, sprite around the Abolone rock water without feeling faint. The point, Ana says, "is to live awake, never indeed be tired of constant again, that to the still that is never less, never shaken off, fastened to as hard enough until we have no choice but to claim it completely and live and love until it's not."

Maybe the world was not made for Ana, too much for a heart-shocked poet who would hope her daydreams, too much to live awake in a low-tensed, effort until that exact will share the same pains and troubles and we love who she was—that is the only explanation I have for myself, every looking a sea that rises where the sky begins. I'll take my cutters, the one I never had a chance to show Ana, and try to take the pictures she would have taken. There will be smiles, and regrets, and prayers winging up the sky. Ana, see like to think, will be reading her poetry with us.

I will not climb to have understood Ana, only a very little, only the pain she let us see. But I will say I loved her, will love her, and hope that now she is among her daughter wars, nothing more can hurt her.

***

For comments, just note: MA 6X001 came; age, location, message then send to 2666 for Globe/Isa and 3666 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Scapegoat

"Those are rogue ambassadors in the government's foreign financial institutions who would like to wash their hands of responsibility for the macroeconomic mess of their profligate, failed and bungled policies, and who look for a sacrificial lamb, a scapegoat in which they can assign the blame."

—Bayan officer and Women's Consciousness vice Edicio de la Torre, after losing his post in Geneva

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Potter and Umbridge

AT LARGE
Rina Jimenez-David

ABOUT THE MOST INTERESTING CHARACTER in "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is Prof. Dolores Umbridge. (Middle Name: Jane.) She was "Defense against the Dark Arts" teacher at Hogwarts. She was also appointed "Grand Inquisitor" by the Ministry of Magic to set things straight at the academy and, secretly, to neutralize the power and influence of the revered headmaster Dumbledore.

On the surface, Umbridge is all softness and pink plush, her tortoise plumpie dad in all shades of pink and her office all pink and frilly. She's also "sweet" and "sexually playing at her lips. In the book, author J.K. Rowling describes Umbridge as "ugly as a toad," "in the position closest to her" in the room with the most her soft plump pleasure appearance helping the newly nervous and frightened new pupils.

As the book makes its way to the Ministry of Magic and

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...
Editor Joaquin V. Sarmiento Jr.

FAQs on the Human Security Act

(Editor's Note: The anti-terror law takes effect today, raising fears among bishops and human rights activists that authorities would use it to crack down on political enemies this Balikatan-ng-Bahay that the law was enacted to protect the people from terror. To help the public understand the implications of the law, we are featuring here the frequently asked questions (FAQs) prepared by a lawyers' group. The group says its updated answers that could be considered to cite some of the new laws.)

By Jose Manuel I. Diokno
Chair, Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG)

Q. What is the Human Security Act of 2007?

A. The "Human Security Act of 2007," or Republic Act No. 9372, is a law that Congress enacted "to protect life, liberty and property from acts of terrorism, to condemn terrorism as inimical and dangerous to the national security of the country ... and to make terrorism a crime against the Filipino people, against humanity, and against the law of nations."

While well-intended, the Human Security Act (HSA) is one of the most barebones, dangerously and ill-conceived laws Congress has ever passed. It does not match the objectives of the law, the law has no discernible structure, no headings or subheadings, and no groupings of sections. Provisions that are matters without logical connection were written contradict each other while others simply make no sense.

Worse, the HSA is a dangerous law. It authorizes preventive detention, expands the power of warrantless arrest, and allows for unchecked invasion of our privacy. Rights and liberties long taken for granted are now subject to sweeping exceptions that can be activated without warrant and detained without charges.

They may be placed under house arrest, prohibited from leaving their residence or their station and any other means of compensation (sec. two) when they are granted bail on the ground that evidence of guilt is not strong. They may also be subjected to surveillance and wiretapping, as well as examination, accumulation and leveling of bank deposits and other assets, in violation of the bank secrecy law (Republic Act No. 1405).

Defining the crime

Q. How does the HSA define the crime of "terrorism"?

A. It defines the crime as follows:

Sec. 3. Terrorism. – Any person who commits an act punishable under any of the following provisions of the Revised Penal Code:

A. Art. 122 (Piracy in General and Mutiny);
B. Art. 134-A(Rebellion or Insurrection);
C. Art. 134-B (Coup d'Etat), including any attempt or conspiracy to commit these crimes;
D. Art. 248 (Murder);
E. Art. 267 (Kidnapping and Serious Illegal Detention);
F. Art. 324 (Crimes Involving Destruction), or under
(1) PD. 1613 (Law on Arson);
(2) R.A. 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act);
(3) R.A. 5207 (Atomic Energy Regulatory and Liability Act);
(4) R.A. 6235 (Anti-Hijacking Law);
(5) P.D. 532 (Anti-Piracy and Anti-Highway Robbery Law); and
(6) P.D. 1866, as amended (Decree Codifying the Laws on Illegal and Unlawful Possession, Manufacture, Dealing in, Acquisition or Disposition of Firearms, Ammunition or Explosives),

thereby serving and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace, in order to coerce the government to give in to an act or abstain from doing any act, shall be guilty of terrorism and shall suffer the penalty of 40 years of imprisonment, without the benefit of parole.

But the crime of terrorism is to be committed, therefore, four elements are essential:

+ The commission of one or more of the acts punished by Articles 267 to 324.
+ That power and creates a condition of "widespread and extraordinary fear and panic" among the populace.
+ With the purpose of coercing the government to:
+ Give in to an "unlawful" demand.

Vague, susceptible to abuse

In FLAG's view, the law's definition of terrorism is vague, ambiguous and highly susceptible to abuse. When does a condition of "widespread and extraordinary fear and panic" exist? Does the "populace" refer to the public in general, those who live in the same city or town or those who live in the same house as the "unlawful" demand?

With no objective standards to guide our law enforcers, the HSA in effect bestows on any law enforcer the unfettered discretion to decide if a person is engaged in terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism. And that is very dangerous indeed.

In the words of Martin Scheinin, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms While Countering Terrorism, "... there are some possible concerns with the definition of terrorism in the Human Security Act but the real result is an overly broad definition which it seems to be at variance with the principle of legality and thus incompatible with Article 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Q. How does the HSA define "conspiracy to commit terrorism"?

A. Section 4 provides that a conspiracy to commit terrorism is committed "when two or more persons come to an agreement concerning the commission of the crime of terrorism as defined in Section 3 hereof and decide to commit the same." The law, in short, defines a terrorist conspiracy as an agreement between two or more persons to commit the crime of terrorism and a decision to commit it.

The basic principle in conspiracy is that the act of one is the act of all. As an American lawyer has observed, "Conspiracy is the darling anti-organization sprout on an entirely different principle."

Conspiracy law rests all conspirators equally liable for all the crimes, when clearly that just is not the case. In fact, criminal organizations are structured specifically to place the greatest risk on the people with the least to gain from the enterprise. That's how you run in those organizations.

Criminal conspiracies don't happen under open meetings. Members don't negotiate their every detail with each other. It's altogether that many criminal organizations have large group meetings ... Quite the opposite. Mostly, conspiracy operations are based on dispersals, segmented knowledge (of other individuals) acts by the conspirators. Meetings are one on one, or (in) tiny minimal groups. At most none of the typical conspirators even know anyone other than which relates to, let alone the harmful effects..."

Small fry

In FLAG's view, criminalizing terrorist conspiracies is a useless, impractical and ineffective way of addressing the problem. Going to rail is the arrest of lots of "small fry" but will never stop the "big fish" behind these organizations.

Q. Does the HSA provide for the outlawing of "terrorist organizations"?

A. No. Section 17 provides that an organization, association or group of persons that is organized for the purpose of engaging in terrorism, or although not organized, actively engages in acts of terrorism, may be declared or proscribed as a "terrorist organization."

In FLAG's view, the outlawing of organizations on the ground that they are "terrorist" is not only vague and overbroad, but it also gives the executive the authority to usurp the function of the judiciary, to curtail the right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

Penalties

Q. What is the penalty for the crimes of terrorism and conspiracy to commit terrorism?

A. The penalty for the crime of terrorism is a term of imprisonment without benefit of parole. This is a very severe penalty not recognized by the Revised Penal Code.

The penalty for conspiracy to commit terrorism is also the penalty of imprisonment without the benefit of parole.

The penalty for accessories is 10 years and 1 day to 12 years of imprisonment.

The penalty for accessories is 10 years and 1 day to 12 years of imprisonment.

Q. Can the rights and liberties of a person merely suspected of terrorism be curtailed under the HSA? If so, in what manner can they be curtailed?

A. Yes. It contains many provisions that allow the rights of mere suspects to be curtailed.

Section 26 provides that persons who have been charged with terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism may be:

+ Placed under house arrest;
+ Restricted from travelling; and/or
+ Prohibited from using any cellular phones, computers or other means of communications with people outside their residence.

Section 18 provides that to the extent of an attack or imminent terrorist attack, persons suspected of terrorism may be arrested and detained without any charges for as long as the detention is approved by a judge of the municipal or regional trial court, the Sandiganbayan or a justice of the Court of Appeals nearest the place of the arrest, or any one of the duty or night.

The judge, among other things, must:

+ Examine the identity of the arresting officers;
+ Determine the identity of the arrested person;
+ Inquire into the reasons for the arrest;
+ Determine, by questioning and personal observations, whether the arrested person was subjected to physical, moral or psychological torture, by whom, and why; and
+ Release those whose detention may be otherwise unlawful.

The arrested person can be brought before the arresting judge by any person on his behalf. Before any of the arrested persons can be released, among its detail other he or she obtained unless the arrested person was brought to him or her.

The third paragraph of Section 18, however, provides that "Communications after taking custody of a person charged with or suspected of the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism, the police or law enforcement personnel shall notify in writing the judge of the court nearest the place of apprehension or arrest: Provided, that within the period to made during Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or after office hours, the written notice shall be served at the residence of the judge nearest the place where the accused was arrested."

In FLAG's view, the two provisions are contradictory. While the first provision requires personal delivery of the arrested person to the judge nearest the place of arrest, the second provision appears to negate this requirement by requiring only a written notice to the judge nearest the place of arrest.

Dangers of wiretapping

Q. Can government place suspects under surveillance, or tap their private communications and communications?
How may this be done?

A. Yes, it authorized by the "authorizing division" of the Court of Appeals, in FLAG's view, surveillance and wiretapping operations infringe on the rights to be presumed innocent and to privacy. Why should these rights be sacrificed because the investigating officers are incompetent, ineffective or unable to collect evidence in other lawful ways? Added to this, with recent technology, the danger of fabricated recordings, spliced tapes and incriminations does not of course, need. The potential for abuse is frightening.

Anyone who undertakes surveillance or wiretapping operations against terrorists (suspects), without authority from the "authorizing division" of the court of Appeals, shall be punishable by imprisonment of between 10 years and 1 day to 12 years.

Q. Will the subject of surveillance or wiretapping be informed about it?

A. While the HSA states that it upholds the "right to be informed of the acts done by law enforcement authorities," the subject of surveillance or wiretapping will only be informed of the surveillance or wiretapping if no one is filed against him or her. If the applicant fails to notify the subject of surveillance or wiretapping in writing within 30 days from the termination of the surveillance, he or she shall be punished with imprisonment of between 10 years and 1 day to 12 years.

FLAG believes that this provision violates due process, since those under surveillance or wiretapping are barred from participating in the proceeding to the detriment of their rights. They are not to be informed of the application or the court authorization order against them; they are not allowed to contest such applications or any ex parte order that may be brought against them; neither are they allowed to present evidence on their own behalf.

They will be subjected to invasion of their private rights without due process for up to 30 days by a battery of law enforcement officers, and any wrongful made or evidence obtained in violation of these privacy and due process rights may be used in evidence against them.

Q. Can government examine bank deposits and finances of persons suspected or those assets of persons suspected or charged under the HSA?

A. Sec. Under Section 27, bank deposits and financial may be examined if judicially authorized. Under Section 28, assets of (1) any person suspected of or charged with terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism before a competent regional trial court, (2) a judicially declared terrorist organization, and (3) members of a judicially declared terrorist organization "shall be seized, sequestered and frozen in order to prevent their use, transfer or conveyance for purposes that are inimical to the safety and security of the people or injurious to the interest of the State." Under Section 27 however, Section 35 does not expressly require judicial authorization and is silent as to which office or agency may authorize an examination and to whom, organization or investigation.

License to look into bank deposits

In FLAG's view, the power to examine bank deposits and finances of persons is another unjustified encroachment on terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism is patently alarming. Law enforcers are armed with the authority to inquire into the bank deposits of persons who are merely accused or prosecutors for terrorism.

Anyone could easily be accused or prosecuted or suspected of being a terrorist. Even worse, these examinations could lead to incidents of extortion, blackmail or even to the basis for kidnapping committed by those seeking ransom or vengeance.

Anyone who examines the bank deposits and finances of terrorism suspects, or members of outlawed terrorist organizations or outlawed terrorist organizations or outlawed terrorist organizations, shall be punished with imprisonment of between 10 years and 1 day to 12 years.

Q. Who authorizes government's inquiries into bank deposits and finances of terrorism suspects or members of outlawed terrorist organizations or outlawed terrorist organizations?

A. The justices of the Court of Appeals designated to act in cases filed with the "authorizing division" are authorized to allow government to inquire into the bank deposits and finances of terrorism suspects or members of outlawed terrorist organizations or outlawed terrorist organizations. They may authorize:

+ The examination of the deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records in a bank or financial institution; and
+ The gathering of any relevant information about such deposits, placements, trust accounts, assets and records in a bank or financial institution.

Q. Will the subject of the examination be informed that it is being done?

A. Persons whose bank deposits and finances are to be examined will not be informed about it. If no case is filed against him or her after the period of examination. If the applicant fails to notify the subject of the examination in writing within 30 days from the expiration of the examination, he or she shall be punishable by imprisonment of between 10 years and 1 day to 12 years.

FLAG reiterates that this provision violates the due process and property rights of those whose bank deposits and finances are under examination.

Payment of damages

Q. Does the HSA penalize law enforcement or government officials who misuse the law?

A. Yes. Section 30 provides that any person who commits any of the prohibited acts in Section 29 (which is also punished by the court shall be entitled to the payment of P500,000.00 damages for every day that he or she has been detained or deprived of liberty or arrested without any charge and for any moral damages as a result of such act or omission. The amount of damages shall be automatically charged against the appropriations of the police agency or the Anti-Terrorism Council that brought or sanctioned the filing of the charges against the accused. The payment of damages may not be released within 15 days from the finding of the court. After the payment of the award of damages shall be without prejudice to the filing of criminal or administrative charges against those responsible for the violation.

Section 31 provides that persons whose properties are seized, sequestered or frozen because of mistake may recover from the government the actual damages caused to them, but not exceeding P500,000 a day for the period in which their properties were seized, sequestered or frozen.

The amount shall be charged against the appropriations of the police or law enforcement agency that caused the filing of the charges.

Other sections of the Act—for instance, Section 7 (which authorizes "arrest without warrant for any person who has committed any of the acts sanctioned by the crime of terrorism in violation of the law. While most of these sections impose a penalty of imprisonment, they do not provide for the payment of damages. Hence, it appears that the law does not provide that evidence seized as a result of illegal police actions may not be used against the accused.

Q. Who shouldn't care about the Human Security Act? It's only for terrorists.

A. The HSA is so vague that it can be used against just about anyone, including you or me. The law is so sweeping that it can be used to curtail the rights of persons who are suspected of terrorism, even if they have been granted bail because evidence of their guilt is not strong. And the law is so dangerous that, unless repealed, it will destroy the rights of the Constitution and rip apart the very fabric of our democratic system.

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Clark airport execs want land back

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—It's airport or bust.

The head of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council (SCADC) has endorsed to President Macapagal-Arroyo the request to return a 300-hectare land to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) to secure the facility's potentials as the country's gateway and mega-logistics hub.

The July 3 letter of SCADC Chair Edgardo Pamintuan to Mukhaharap General Investment Administration Officer JOKARO expressed "full support" for the request of Bryan Clark Shepherd, chairman of the Clark International Airport Corp. The CIAC is the state agency managing the development of the DMIA.

Shepherd had said in his June 17 letter to Ms. Arroyo that the 300-ha industrial estate is a the "most logical site for the recommended 3,000-meter."

Problem is, the Clark Development Corp., the real estate manager of the freeport, plans to build a central business district (CBD) on the same land, as a copy of its June 17 bid invitation by an P10-million feasibility study showed.

The CBD replaced the DMIA land to 2,200 hectares.

The land use dispute threw CIAC and SCADC officials to one camp, and CDC and Bases Conversion Development Authority officials in another.

BCDA board members officials professed to make Clark an investment haven but they seemed to be taking different tacks in bringing what about, several investors said.

Starting 1992, the government rebuilt this economic zone and the airport here from the Clark Air Base of the United States military.

In the letter to the SCADC Pamintuan also supported Shepherd's request to set up the plan to build an interchange of the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway in the middle of the boundary of Angeles City and the disputed area.

"I believe these are very important issues in the implementation of the President's vision for the Clark Freeport Zone to become part of a mega-logistics hub to serve the Asia-Pacific region," Pamintuan said. Executive Secretary Lynn Danes Montes of the SCADC.

Montes had written him on June 20 for information and appropriate action on Shepherd's request.

Pamintuan said it was his "mandate" as chair of the SCADC to "see to it that all politics and development plans concerning Clark and Subic [the ends due to] riots of the President."

"We need to move as for the airport and logistics area their anything else to be able to serve wide-bodied aircraft. Other developments should not eat DMIA's land away and anything to be built within it should suit the aeronautics master plan," Pamintuan said in a phone interview on Saturday.

Amid the feud, CDC officials appeared to have aligned the CBD plan with the logistics plan.

Pamintuan called this an "albatross" on the part of CDC president Leni Lesa.

CDC's press statement on July 13 quoted Lesa as saying that the CDC was "aligned with Mr. Arroyo's" status to create a logistics hub in Clark under her 10-point agenda."

The CBD concept, Lesa said, will "co-exist harmoniously with airport development at Clark."

A TOWER at the DMIA that houses $5-million worth of state-of-the-art radar and other pieces of equipment. PHOTO BY ARNOLDZ ALCANTARA/INQUIRER

C. Visayas cops start training on terror law

By Jhonnas Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—CENTRAL VISAYAS policemen are undergoing seminars on the Human Security Act of 2007 just as militant groups in Cebu began a series of protest actions against the new law.

Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio Jr., regional police chief, said the seminars would familiarize policemen with the new law, which takes effect today.

Last Friday, militant group Bayan Muna and other affiliated groups again staged a rally in Cebu City to denounce the implementation of the law.

Its man, Pierre, secretary-general of Bayan Muna in Central Visayas, said the law would be used against them.

Reyes claimed that the implementation of the law would pave the way for a "regulated martial law."

However, Alarcio gave assurance that his policemen would not commit abuses in the implementation of the law.

Alarcio said the law provides for safety nets to avoid abuses by law enforcers.

He said there are provisions in the law that provide grave penalty for abusive policemen, particularly in the detention of persons, such as making them pay a fine of 500,000 a day.

3 kidnapping-robbery gang members slain

LUCENA CITY—Three members of a kidnapping and robbery group were killed by police in a clash along the Maharlika Highway in Atimonan town in this city early dawn Saturday, according to a police report.

The report identified the victims as Mateo Hapit Jr. of Sampaloc Compound, Poblete, Mauriliopa City, Jovitar Cuevas, and a still unidentified.

It said that on Friday, elements of Quezon police intelligence branch received a report from the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (PACER) that an organized crime group headed by Cuevas was spotted in Lucena City and believed to be targeting another rich and prominent victim.

After verification and surveillance operations, the group was confirmed to be staying at the Road Side Inn Motel in Barangay Ibayuan.

At around 2:30 a.m., PACER team headed by Supt. Ronald Oliver Lee, along with Quezon intelligence operatives led by Chief Inspector Bryan Chiocia, flagged down the suspects on board a Nissan Sentra (DSO-995) at the junction of Barangay Ibayuan and Atimonan.

Instead of stopping, the suspects sped off but were immediately chased by the authorities.

Delfin Z. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Audio recording has Bossi voice, say fellow priests

DAVAO CITY—THE PONtifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Pime) here said the voice in the recording that has been circulating for almost a week now is that of kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi.

"We are aware that there's an audio (recording) and we were able to listen to it. Yes, it's Fr. Giancarlo," Fr. Gianni Sandalo, regional superior of Pime, said.

The 39-second voice clip, Sandalo said, started with a clear audio where Bossi spoke in Italian.

"Actually the first portion is quite clear. Giancarlo started his statement mentioning the date July 2, 2007 in Italian words, but the rest is not so audible," Sandalo said.

Fr. Luciano Benedetti, also of Pime and a former hostage victim himself, said another part of the recording has Bossi speaking in English and Cebuano.

[Quoting Bossi, Benedetti said: "I am fine and please relieve him. It's that I am okay."

The rest of the recording, Sandalo said, is garbled.

"Probably due to poor recording. Those people (kidnappers) who would like to make money out of it transferred the audio from tape recording to CD using poor instrument and maybe somewhere along the way it went wrong," he said.

Sandalo said they do not have a copy of the CD, which they first heard on July 6, the day photos of Bossi circulated.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is gearing for an Army offensive following the death of 14 soldiers, 10 of them beheaded, during a search for Bossi on Basilan Island.

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the military to get the "savages" that killed and beheaded the Marines at Alberto town.

The attack took place even as the peace negotiations between the government and the MILF was set to resume next month.

Khaled Musa, vice chair of the MILF's committee on information, yesterday said the MILF will defend itself in the face of an impending major offensive planned by government forces.

"We will defend ourselves at all cost," Musa said.

He said that the deployment of more government forces in the Island is a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF.

"We will remain on the defensive and not will fight back if provoked," he said.

Eid Kabalu, also speaking for the MILF, said a major offensive will not help ease the tension on the island.

Kabalu and other ranking MILF officials have condemned the beheadings and pledged that if MILF rebels indeed committed it, they will be punished.

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said that Islam prohibits the killing of captured enemies or the desecration of corpses.

When asked who was responsible for the beheading, Kabalu said: "We admit the ambush but we deny the beheading."

"It has to be investigated because the MILF does not behead fallen enemies, take their pants off, but mutilating the dead is a taboo in our organization," he said. Edwards B. Bernardo and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

VEGETATION
Huts and roam farms are changing the landscape of the Cordillera region, transforming forests into vast expanses of agricultural areas. This, and other farms in the region, have become symbols of modern farming in the Cordillera.

Ipo Dam watershed rehab to take 20 years

NORZAGARAY, BULACAN—THE reforestation of the denuded portions of the Ipo Dam watershed here may take 20 years as it would require the planting of at least 1.1 million tree seedlings.

Rodrigo Alimurung, watershed manager of Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI), the firm promoting and managing the Ipo Dam, said at least 23,000 trees were already planted in the watershed area.

The MWCI is the water concessionaire for the east zone of Metro Manila. It gets its supply from the Ipo Dam, which is located inside the 68,000-hectare Angat watershed reservation area.

Alimurung said they estimated that it would take about 20 years to rehabilitate the Ipo Dam watershed based on their experience in restoring the watershed of the smaller La Mesa Dam, which took 10 years.

He said the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a private nonprofit foundation organized by the country's business leaders, was behind the reforestation and rehabilitation of the La Mesa Dam through its "Save the La Mesa Watershed Project."

He said the PBSP has pledged to replicate what they have done in La Mesa Dam to benefit the Ipo Dam.

He said volunteer groups participating in the project, which was launched through a tree-planting activity last year, agreed to adopt at least 2.5 ha each of the denuded area within the Ipo Dam watershed.

He said it was important to nurture the dam's watershed and prevent illegal activities and encroachment there to ensure a stable supply of water to Metro Manila. Gerwenda Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

OFWs continue to flock to Iraq

A TYPICAL airport scene when tragedy befalls OFWs abroad and their families await their bodies' arrival. AP FILE

By Ramona Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE DEATH OF AN overseas Filipino worker in Iraq during a mortar attack indicates that Filipinos continue to risk their lives despite a ban on OFW deployment to the war-torn country.

Roy Jacinto, of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), said based Cebu Rodgenia Jr., who died in a mortar attack in Iraq, was hired to work abroad in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Jacinto said Bongcaril's entry to Iraq could be illegal because the government has imposed a ban on the deployment of Filipino workers there.

Based on OWWA records, a Cebu Pantlagan Bongcaril Jr., a resident of Toledo City in Cebu, processed his documents for Dubai, UAE on Dec. 27, 2006, through an agency identified as Prime Project International.

But Bongcaril's sister-in-law, Juliet B. Gomez, said her brother left the country for Iraq on June 15, 2006, or over six months before his employment papers were processed.

Jacinto said OWWA is checking whether Prime Project International exists and if it was another recruitment agency that sent Bongcaril to Iraq.

However, Bongcaril's beneficiaries would still receive a P320,000 insurance since he was registered with the OWWA even if he worked illegally in Iraq, Jacinto said.

Evelia Inocen, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Cebu officer in charge, said she also believed that Bongcaria was an illegal worker in Iraq.

Bongcaria is a native of Lutopan, Toledo City and the youngest of five siblings.

Gomez said a neighbor, identified only as Lalay, recruited 20 workers from Lutopan, including her brother, to work in Iraq.

Gomez said a Cebu City-based agency called Sinar Agency hired her brother.

However, Gomez said Sinar Agency is a local recruitment agency, which meant that it was only licensed to hire workers for local employment.

Gomez said that her brother went to Dubai as a "tourist food assistant," Bongcaria, who turned 33 last July 6, also signed his employment contract for Iraq in Dubai, she added.

Bongcaria worked as driver of a bus that hosted US soldiers between their workplace and their quarters, she said.

Gomez said they were still coordinating with the Department of Foreign Affairs to arrange for the arrival of the remains of her brother.

In previous conversations, Bongcaria told her that bombings usually occurred at night but he gave assurance he was safe because their quarters is located under a tunnel.

Gomez said the urged Bongcaria to come home but he refused because he has no job here.

ROUNDUP

Youth vs global warming

SURIGAO CITY—Students from various schools here have pledged to lead the campaign against global warming in their schools as they engaged in a two-day mural painting competition that centered on environmental protection.

Students from Surigao National High School (SNHS), Laurel College, Surigaonon State College, St. Louise de Marillac College and Surigao Mission High School competed in the event which was part of the National Environment Month Celebrations.

Reynaldo Jusan, DENR regional executive director, said the youth was a crucial partner in the fight against global warming.

Jobert Labadan, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Reward for bomb suspects

GAPAN CITY—Police have offered P25,000 to people who could provide information that would lead to the arrest of suspects behind a bomb explosion that left six members dead recently.

Gapan police director Senior Supt. Rodelfo Bunoan said bomb experts have joined the task force investigating the explosion.

The bomb was placed in a garbage can on Tarlac and Burgos Streets on June 27. Bunoan said arrest has caused police visibility.

Ramon Efondo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

New defense chief hailed

TARLAC CITY—Tarlac Gov. Victor Yap welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent appointment of former Tarlac Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr. as defense secretary, saying he is the "right man for the job."

Yap said Teodoro's tenure as the city's "consultant on anti-crime and for the disruption of duties with criminal humidity," "Yap's father, Tarlac Rep. Jose Yap, said Ms Arroyo has made an "excellent decision" in appointing Teodoro.

Manuel Arnaiz, Inquirer Central Luzon

Korean in murder rubbed

ANGELES CITY—Police arrested one of the Koreans linked to the murder and attempted murder of two other compatriots in a house in Barangay Salapan here on Monday.

Senior Supt. Guillermo, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Luzon, said a team from the CIDG anti-transnational crime division and the Angeles City police arrested Yong Ho Yu, 43, in Quezon City.

Yong was wanted for the murder of Sang Hak Cho, 45, and the attempted murder of Seok Hwan Kim, 41. Police were hunting Yong's companions, identified as Bruce Lee and Chang Hwan Lee.

Jun Mateo, Inquirer Central Luzon

Village chief, grandson slain

CABAGAN, Isabela—A 40-year-old village chief and his grandson were killed while his wife was wounded on Thursday when armed men attacked them in Barangay Pilig Sur here, police said.

Antonio Tacsiang, PNP/Ani village head, and his grandson Joemhi Layugan, 10, died instantly from their wounds. Tacsiang's wife, Carmen, 44, was taken to the Milagros Doctor Hospital for treatment.

Police said the Tacsiangs were on their way home on a Honda motorcycle when the men fired at them. Investigators were looking into personal grudge as motive of the attack.

Ellaine Uraga Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

OMI mourns Belgian priest

DE BARACOTT—The Philippine Oblates of Mary Immaculate congregation mourns the death of a Belgian missionary who spent most of his life in Mindanao.

Fr. Herman Bonnaire, OMI provincial superior, said Fr. Ralph Debrabander died on June 29 at the Cor Jesu University Medical Foundation Hospital in Quezon City. He was 79 years old.

Fr. Debrabander had been suffering from diabetes and non-healing wounds in his feet. He was buried at the OMI cemetery in Tamontaka, Brgy. Datu Saliluhan, Upper Marbel on July 6.

Fr. Debrabander arrived in the Philippines exactly after his ordination in early 1950s.

Edwin D. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

6 car thieves fall in Arayat...

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police on Friday arrested six Luzon-wide suspected members of a car theft syndicate operating in Central Luzon and Metro Manila.

Senior Supt. Manuel Gaerlan, head of the Central Luzon police's Regional Mobile Group, identified the suspects as Floral Bagsit, Noel Torres, Leo delos Smc. Ramon de la Cruz, Ignacio Nonga and Roberto Salac.

Gaerlan said members of the Anti-Carnapping Management Office in Camp Crame and Arayat police tailed the six suspects until they reached Barangay Casalingan in Apalit where they sold parts of stolen vehicles to various motorists there.

The Mitsubishi L-300 van they used during the delivery was loaded with car parts, he said.

Noelle Dojas, Inquirer Central Luzon

...2 others nabbed in Laguna

CABUYAO CITY, Laguna—Police arrested two suspected members of a car theft syndicate, including one of the most wanted criminals in the province, in separate operations in this city, Biñan and Calamba early Tuesday.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. identified those arrested as Eduardo Dare, 28, alias Eddie Boy, and Dino Diluan, 38, both residents of Barangay Pagsanhan, this city, town.

Rojas said acted on him his involvement with a local car theft gang. Dare is also the recently most wanted criminal in the province of Laguna.

Nestor Etemas, Inquirer Southern Luzon

T'nalak fest July 18

KORONADAL, South Cotabato—Various ethnic dances will highlight the T'nalak Festival on July 18 that will showcase the heritage of different Mindanao communities in Soccsksargen.

A whole day street dance competition will be performed by students dressed in their native costumes.

Lui Fortunato, vice-chair of the committee on Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Tribal Concerns, said around seven contingents from the different schools in the province will participate in the presentation, according to a news release.

NOTICE AND WARNING

BAYER HEALTHCARE AG, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Germany is the owner of Philippine Patent No. 26419 entitled, "Infusion solutions of 1-Cyclopropyl-6-Fluoro-1,4-Dihydro 4-Oxo-7 (1-Piperazinyl)-Quinoline-3-Carboxyllic Acid" commonly referred to as CIPROFLOXACIN Solution for Infusion (I.V.).

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Marcos-era form of torture stays alive in Army

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—"Pastorture therapy" a form of torture inflicted on political prisoners during the Marcos dictatorship, is still practiced by some military men until today.

Task force Aguila Army leader Rizalito Calma, lived to tell it to Dante Jimenez Bishop Pablo Virgilio David and Gov. Eddie Panlilio here on Thursday.

"I am out of ammo to call for help. If true, really sorrowful me, I could have admitted that I killed Jesus Christ," Dante, 41, told David, Panlilio and about 50 church leaders, educators and human rights watchers convened by the three archdiocesan group Lanzones Hala at the St. Edmund's Academy here.

Dante went out of hiding to speak in public for the first time on the "torture" on him on May 17 by soldiers of the 703rd Infantry Battalion assigned in Sitio Comorbih, Barangay Bulubdud in Floridablanca, Pampanga.

More details

He relayed his full account in a July 11 affidavit, which was attested to by Fr. Benignitus Mayo Gozar, chair of the Pampanga Association of Women Religious for Justice and Peace, and Pampanga Archdiocesan Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace coordinator Fr. Odilo Reluyengco, SSS, coordinator of the Mission ary Benedictine Sisters' indigenous peoples' apostolate and United Methodist Church pastor Sarilada Gala.

The term "water therapy" appeared in his first affidavit, dated May 17, Nevalia Lorenzo, administrative aide of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in Central Luzon, said.

In a phone interview on Friday, Col. Raimundo Ferreras, chief of the 703rd Infantry Brigade, which has command over the two battalions, urged those helping Dante to file the cases in court and have the erring soldiers summoned.

"I will not tolerate these kinds of behaviors from our soldiers," Ferreras told the Inquirer.

Start of torture

In his July 11 affidavit, written in Pilipino, Dante narrated: "When Rosegard Intsia has gone past the gate, Lt. Caballes approached me and called it. Pesquera. He told me: 'Starting this day you are captured.' He beat me in the chest. After that, their commanding officer (CO), came near me, and removed my bar and clothes.

"The CO hit me in the chest. He held my hair and broke my neck on the plastic chair. They got wire and while holding my neck, poured water into my mouth and poured my nose so I could drink all the water. They punched me in the stomach after I drank so much water. This lasted for an hour," Dante said.

The interrogation followed. Dante was asked who his companions were in the New People's Army, if he was an NPA rebel and if he knew a certain Ka Roman. He denied, earned him more pain, he said.

The water therapy resumed to a pig pen. This time, he was tied to five sections of his body, from the feet to the hands.

What was different in this round was that his feet were pulled away as water was forced into his mouth. Dante said his body felt numb all over as this was done to him.

Near death

According to him, Caballes asked his gun on Dante's forehead three to make him confess. The official also threatened to shoot him by firing squad and cleaved him a grave, he said.

Because the villagers knew he was detained at the camp, Dante said he was released by noon the next day and made to sign a document that he made a "voluntary surrender without Firearms."

He said he has been in hiding since.

The affidavit of Aeta men Edgar Torres, Alay Dante, Pati Pagaco, Eddie Pete, Oscar Servano and Joel Bonano related how soldiers and armed men harassed, pursued and hurt them and their relatives in separate incidents from November 2006 to May this year to their villages in Weiss and Floridablanca. The weapons belonged to the 60th and 69th IB.

Three Army units are in the boundaries of Bataan, Pampanga and Zambales that have been battlegrounds and secure routes of the military and NPA since the 1970s.

The six men, even Pagaco who is a barangay captain of Camias in Porac, have gone into hiding, slipping occasionally to check on their families.

Like Dante, they said in the letter they have never been NPA members or cadres.

Protectors of the people

"We are leaders of our people. We are protectors of our ancestral domain against mining companies and eco-tourism projects," Jimmy Gonzaga said.

The bishop expressed shock at Dante's account, saying he and Panlilio heard only of rumors rendered during the Marcos dictatorship when they were ordained priests.

"We're supposed to be in a democracy now and yet this happened," David said.

Panlilio agreed to work on David's recommendation to hold dialogues with the military and establish peace zones in Subic and Capas, Tarlac to prevent the Aeta tribes from armed groups, whether from the military, communist armies or private companies.

Floridablanca Councilor Pamfilo Lacson, chair on Human Rights, promised to submit the affidavits to the commission. She said the cases might prosper because the military personnel have been identified in the affidavits.

Church leaders also started necessary programs for the victims to keep them safe from retaliation as the cases were prepared.

The 69th and 24th IB have established camps in schools and barangay halls, calling villagers to regular meetings, announcing people on the Order of Battle, doing home searches and regular patrols in pursuit of rebels, reports said.

HEAD Protesters picket against the Human Security Act that they said was prone to abuses

Sexual abuse cases vs kids on the rise

By Joey A. Gabieza
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE NUMBER of cases of sexual abuse of minors in Eastern Visayas has risen in the first half of the year.

Records of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regional office showed that 127 cases of sexual abuse against minors were reported to the regional office. The victims were aged 7 years old to 18 years old.

During the same period last year, sexual abuse cases, which include rape, incest and acts of lasciviousness, were monitored against 109 victims, as mentioned by the DSWD regional office.

The DSWD records showed that the provinces of Leyte (26 cases) and Samar (24) posted the highest number of sexual abuse cases in the first six months.

Biliran had 19 cases; Tacloban City, 15; Ormoc, 10; Southern Leyte, 9; Calbayog, Samar and Eastern Samar, 8 each; and Northern Samar with only five cases.

No cause for alarm?

The number of sexual abuse cases could be higher since there were cases that were not reported to the DSWD regional office, said Marlene Kahayon, head of the DSWD regional office's women's community-based services unit.

Kahayon, however, said there was no cause for alarm over the increasing number of cases.

"This only means that our advocacy campaign for the victims or their relatives to come out in the open and report their ordeal is becoming effective," Kahayon explained.

"They know now where to report their ordeal," she added. Relatives said that some of the sexual abuse cases that were reported to the DSWD office happened months ago.

All victims of sexual abuses, Kahayon said, were given the necessary assistance by the DSWD office, like providing medical and legal help, financial help, psychological help and temporary shelter.

She noted that sexual abuses could happen anytime even inside the victim's home and, more often than not, the victims know the perpetrators.

Photo, the increasing willingness of victims to report their ordeal, Kahayon also sought the support of the police and local government units in taking care of the victims.

HARD WORK
A Cuevillas resident on a farm in Bongsod that has seen the transition from manual, hard labor to mechanization. More and more farms in the region are turning to machines to increase production.

SC looks at system to lower shrinks' annulment case fees

MANILA CITY—THE SUPREME Court is considering an overdue, system for psychiatrists and psychologists who conduct tests on couples seeking to annul their marriages, an official of the high court's Office of the Court Administrator said.

The move, according to lawyer Nenita Cuesta Visitacion, assistant court administrator, was meant to regulate the fees that professional experts following examination from litigants that their services had become costly.

"Before, the fee was around P15,000 to P15,000 per case. Now, the fees ranged from P50,000 to more than P90,000," she said.

Victim discussed annulment of marriage before lawyers who attended the Supreme Court's mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE) at the third Supreme here on Wednesday.

Psychologists and psychiatrists are often presented in court as expert witnesses for petitions on the declaration of nullity of marriage provided under Article 36 of the Family Code.

Their evaluation report on the behavior of couples is crucial to the court's conclusion to grant the petition based on psychological incapacity.

Victim, a former Manila regional trial court judge, said courts are being flooded with cases for annulment of marriage.

In Region VIII, she said, frequent lawyers have complained that many of their clients have decided to give up their plans to file their court petitions after learning the cost of hiring the service of an expert witness from the medical field.

Visitacion also appealed to have agreed to charge the candidates a fee of P10,000 that many clients could not afford," a lawyer said.

An accreditation system would prevent them from turning their services into a business that would be detrimental to the cause of poor litigants.

"The high cost of their professional services could become a reason for denial of access to justice," Visitacion said.

She said the accreditation would include the training of psychiatrists to maintain their professional competence and avoid compromising their objectivity.

"Regulating these service entities would not only uphold their responsibility as they would become of favor of the court," she said.

She said some courts had proposed the listing of its practitioners to cut down on court delays, regardless, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Ombudsman told: Run after big fish, too

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Local treasury officials on Wednesday assailed the supposed double standard of the Ombudsman in maintaining employees who have failed to account for missing funds in their custody.

Sources, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, challenged Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to apply the assigned standards to top officials and not single out rank-and-file employees for "minimal" amount of missing government money.

A treasury official said it was unfair that their colleague, Imelda Cabarrubias, treasurer of Kasibu town, was made a "scapegoat" after the Ombudsman ordered her dismissal for failing to account about P738,000 of the town's funds.

"If the Ombudsman is indeed carrying out an honest-to-goodness campaign against graft and corruption, then why are there many other officials who are still running away unscathed despite the large amount of money that they have failed to account for?" the source said.

Gutierrez ordered Cabarrubias dismissed from the service after she failed to explain the shortage of P738,084.78 in her accounts, covering the period Dec. 17, 2002 to June 23, 2003.

"What an accountable officer (failed) to produce the missing funds, it is presumed that she applied the same for her personal use and benefit," which rendered the official "no longer worthy to remain in her position as she had violated the trust reposed on her," the Ombudsman said.

But Cabarrubias' case pales in comparison with those in the provincial government, another treasury official said.

The source said millions of pesos remained unaccounted for due to the supposed "confusion" by some provincial officials who are mandated by law to present public funds.

Inquirer's research showed that as of July 11, unliquidated cash advances in the provincial government reached P124 million, spread out among more than 1,100 officials and employees.

Records showed that former Rural Bloc Rep. Florante Balgos Jr., who is no longer with the provincial government, posted the highest cash advance of P2.6 million.

Four provincial employees have unaccounted cash advances of P1 million.

"The Ombudsman should draw its concern by making everyone accountable, regardless of one's rank or if he is connected to government," the source said.

Kasibu Mayor Romeo Tapalina expressed sympathy for Cabarrubias, but declined to comment on the Ombudsman's supposed "double standard" and the employees.

"It's a pity really, but we cannot do anything because that is her accountability," Tapalina said.

Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

Putting money where the conscience is

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

THE SALES PITCH OF THE Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Development Inc. (DBFSDI), or simply Don Bosco, doesn't hide anything.

No sugar-coated promises. No false advertisements. The people behind it always clarify: not just about to create false needs for the demanding but willing consumers.

Even their slogan is void of promotions: "Your option for healthy living and source of bio-dynamically produced food explain with his heart."

Where the Don Dynamic Health Food Center was established in Davao City last year, the first organic food center in the city, people learn Don Bosco were not thinking of making a huge profit.

For them, the daring decision to put up the center was their way of putting money where the conscience is. And by that, they mean helping farming communities and doing business while taking good care of the health of the consumers and keeping a healthy environment.

When they decided to put up a store in the city selling 100 percent chemical-free food products, Don Bosco was not worried about the presence of other established businesses in Davao.

Marta Fulawa "Sarie" Bunto-Gamela, executive director of Don Bosco, said they knew they were opening the gates to competition from other sellers.

"It was an easy thing to do considering that organic food offers a far different world compared to the more popular chemical-dependent agriculture which unwisely produces chemical-laced food products.

Biodynamics

Don Bosco first set up a store in Kidapawan City with products mostly supplied by farmers practicing biodynamics. Gamela said they decided to open a store there in Davao because of the growing demand.

"We don't compete. We are here to offer products for those who want to choose healthy living as an option, you know, as they say, the engine of organic production will be fueled by the demand of the order market. And for now there is actually a growing demand for market expansion," Gamela said.

Inside the store, located near a shopping mall, are processed and raw food products sorted through biodynamics, an agricultural approach which uses the forces of nature.

Cheaper goods

Products for sale include polished and unpolished beans, red and white rice, fruits and flavored milk and milk bars, yoghurt, mangosteen capsules and tea, tea granules, avocado tea granules, cammot tea, nothing tea, wild honey, vinegar, herbs, and anthroposophic preparations (for cough, fever, diarrhea, and other minor diseases).

Also sold are fresh fruits and vegetables and poultry products (native chicken eggs and eggs, duck eggs), goat meat, dangit, and tuna products. Handmade soaps—of milk, tocomad, and milk honey varieties—are also available at the center.

Gamela said these goods are cheaper compared to those sold in malls and supermarkets, which partly explains the growing demand.

Even tricycle drivers and fish vendors can afford the products sold at the center, dispensing the notion that only rich people can have organic food.

"It's not true that only the rich can afford to buy these products. If you compare the prices of our products to the same products found in the malls and supermarkets here, you will see the difference," Gamela said.

Polished organic rice sold in a mall here costs P35 a kilo while the polished organic rice sold at the Don Dynamic Center is only P30 per kilo. The difference is also evident in other products.

Don Bosco intends to build chains in the cities of General Santos, Davao and Cebu. These chains, Gamela said, can help the farmers and protect the consumers from the added burden of employing middlemen.

Cooperative store

The centers in Kidapawan and Davao are being managed by the Biodynamics Multipurpose Cooperative, composed of practicing farmers and advocates of biodynamics and organic agriculture.

They spent about P500,000 to establish the chain which was also supported by Oxfam and Equity Foundation (PHP). The cooperative's more than 3,000 farmers supply the products sold in the stores.

Other nongovernment organizations and people's organizations, which are producing organic products, can also display their own products in the stores.

She said the center is the manifestation of their advocacy and practice of their vocation and social responsibility.

"We are looking at what we are doing in the area of ecological and livelihood. We are not only getting farmers the economic opportunity but also giving the consumers the option to be healthy and have a good life. So it is livelihood and having alive," Gamela said.

"It's putting your money where your conscience is. This is to show that you can actually do business without destroying the environment or harming the health of the people. While doing business, you should not poison people. You have to take care of the people by also taking good care of the environment," Gamela added.

In advocacy, she said, it is important to show the proof that what is being advocated works. She said they are advocating for a safe and sustainable agriculture and try to reach a true sustainable agriculture rules on the market.

"The consciousness of the people in Mindanao is gearing towards good health and environmental protection and preservation. The niche is developing and we have to show that it is actually working because the truth is it is actually working," she said.

"The bottomline is that what we are doing is to confound yet outwood, in the end of the day, we will be united, what did we do on this earth and we will be accountable for whatever we have done here. And farming is keeping a relationship with the creator. There is a way deep wisdom in farming that everyone must understand," she added.

Since 1994, Don Bosco has been promoting sustainable agriculture in Mindanao by facilitating a paradigm shift for farmers...from practicing exploitative, conventional agriculture to holistic, socially and environmentally responsible agriculture.

Gamela said they wanted to empower farming communities and help them become responsible in taking care of the life support systems of the earth.

"They choose farming communities as the "locus of action, agriculture being a major contributor to the planet's degradation and agriculture deeply troubling and affecting the widest spheres of human life," she said.

VEGETABLES and other food products grown organically are sold at affordable prices at Don Dynamic in Davao. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

Boy dreams of a normal life

By Aquiles Zonio
General Santos City

MY DREAM IS TO SEE MY illness heal so I can live a normal life and go to school."

This was what 17-year-old Marlon Talens said when the Inquirer talked to him in one of the campus of Maravilla Academy in Kiamsan village.

Marlon was sitting alone in one corner while his peers were playing. But aside from the lonely look in his eyes, Marlon, all over his body were one of the signs he was dark-skinned.

Marlon admitted he wanted company but he said nobody wanted to play with him. His peers at the Maravilla Academy even avoided him. Worse, they kept on teasing and tormenting him.

"But I decided to live alone? I've wanted to live a normal life," the young boy said in the vernacular.

The youngest in a brood of five, Marlon, who has been suffering from a strange malady since childhood, is one of the many street children who found their home in the Maravilla Academy, a liberian run facility under Bro. Crispin Beltran.

Orphan

Marlon was born on Feb. 10, 1990 in Barangay 1, Malita City from parents who are Tboli cousins.

His family moved to Magsaysay village in Polomolok town, South Cotabato when he was still a boy.

He claimed that as far as he can remember, he has been suffering from the mysterious disease. He would recall that his parents always brought him to the doctor but his illness persisted.

When his parents died of unknown illness or was—his father first and then his mother—he and the four other Talens siblings had much of each other.

His siblings were to live with close relatives, while he ended up begging in the city public market because nobody wanted to take him in.

Fate

For three years, from age 13 to 16, Marlon was a street urchin. "I didn't steal. I just begged for food and money in order to survive," he said.

He said he wanted to work to earn a living but nobody wanted to accept him because of his appearance.

When a person plucked him out of the street and brought him to the Maravilla Academy, Marlon said he thought luck had come.

But he was dismayed when the other children made it clear they did not want him for company.

"Brother Crispin has been good to me. No problem with him, but I feel unwelcome and unwanted especially among my housemates. It's not my fault. Why should I suffer? Am I to be born to cried to die," Marlon said.

It is apparent that Marlon's illness is affecting him both physically and emotionally and he has developed some form of eczema.

He admitted the teasing has prevented him from joining other children and that he usually cocked his ears.

"They don't want to play with me. I am avoiding a fight with anybody even if they keep on teasing me," he said.

Epidermolysis bullosa

Bro. Bunny de Leon, the Maravilla's former executive director, said he brought Marlon to the hospital after seeing his miserable condition.

He said he spent more than P50,000 for nine days, when doctors decided to confine Marlon for further observation and treatment.

He said the initial finding of the dermatologist attending Marlon's case was that he was suffering from "probable Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB)."

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases described EB as a group of blistering skin condition in which the skin becomes fragile.

"In severe EB, blisters are not confined to the outer skin. They form develop inside the body, in such places as the linings of the mouth, esophagus, stomach, intestines, upper airway bladder, and the genitals," the NIAMS said in its website (http://www.niams.nih.gov).

In the United States alone, NIAMS said two to four of 100,000 people or up to 12,000 people have some form of EB.

NIAMS also said EB is an inheritable condition through faulty genes a child receives from one or both parents.

NIAMS warned that the blisters can lead to serious complications especially where infection sets in.

"Unfortunately but not notable," Br. Jovic quoted Marlon's doctor as saying adding that the illness is not contractable by physical contact.

For Marlon, he never loses hope that one day he could be cured.

He said his only problem is that he has no money to hire a medical expert that could help cure his illness.

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NEWS

YOUNG READING FANS surround broadcaster Christine Bersola-Babao during the Inquirer Read-Along Program on Saturday. She holds up copies of the two books she wrote and read to the kids.

Christine Bersola: Reading brings wonder, respect

By Kim V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

TELEVISION BROADCASTER CHRISTINE BERSOLA-BABAO and teachers from Bulacan read to the children in the 20th session of the Inquirer Read-Along program yesterday.

Babao read "Bryan Learns His Lesson" and "Banana Mountain," two stories she wrote herself, while the teachers from the Sophia School in Meycauayan, Bulacan, amused the audience of over 80 kids with their animated skit "Baby Bibe."

"The feeling of instantaneous reaction from the audience is also indescribable. You can see the wonder in their eyes, you cry biglalo na iyong-aquatic! Kiss you will not exchange for anything)," she said. "At that moment, when you're reading the book to them, their world is you, their attention."

"There's fulfillment when you read the book yourself, when the audience is there right in front of you. And the children look at you with such respect, especially if you're an adult storyteller. Or TV, you don't see your audience, just the camera lens," she said.

The audiences included children from Conrad Kallinger's Generation Village in Bonoyong Bato, Guadalupe, Makati City, and street children from Pasay City.

"It was wonderful and particularly meaningful because these were kids from Conrad Kallinger, and I'm also an advocate of OK," said Babao, a mother herself to 2-year-old Inaysan.

Babao said she started writing her first book, "Bryan Learns His Lesson," in May 2004, while waiting to get pregnant. "And while Juhee (Babao, her husband) was doing the illustrations, I found out I was pregnant," she said.

"Bryan" is about a world-off bad boy and his polite boy who wakes up one day without the luxuries he was used to.

Book against pollution

Her second book, "Banana Mountain," was launched in February and is about saving the environment due to pollution.

"I really believe that one is never too young to be an environmentalist. Actually you really have to start them young so that it becomes second nature to them to be disciplined about throwing trash," Babao said.

If many writers say giving birth is a book is a reason of joy and pain, Babao found there really wasn't much pain in coming out with her first two books. "There's more inner joy than pain in writing a story," she said.

And with the Department of Education and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ordering 3,000 copies of "Banana Mountain" when it came out, Babao was more than happy to find the book was not difficult to market at all.

"I guess the difficulties just concerned the deadlines, you really had to meet them so you could launch the book," she said.

Babao is planning to launch her third book, "The Story of Christian," on June 6 for his 12th birthday in October.

Her books are published by Sirao Publishing Co. Inc., the publishing arm of Goodwill Bookstore.

Animated skit

Babao was followed by seven teachers from Sophia School who presented a skit about a disliking who thought she would not sing.

"Storytelling is our passion," said Anne Alonzo, one of the teachers who volunteered for the program after reading about it in the Internet.

"In our school, we promote storytelling. We use it as a tool for edutainment or educational entertainment. All the teachers story-tell. We do storytelling in all of the subjects, story-telling across the curriculum—in Science, Arts, Math, Social Studies, Values."

With Alonzo as the narrator, the party group of teachers—Rosay Castillo, Rhonnie Candido, Rosalinda de la Vega, Verona Orsal-la, Lorna Sterling and Julie Lotico—put on aprons on which were painted the story's characters and acted it out, sometimes calling on the audience to participate.

Not only can these teachers tell a story—they can also act, sing and dance. They also make their own props. How do they find the time between lesson plans? "I guess it's because you love the job and you have a passion for storytelling," Alonzo said.

"It's a competition for all teachers to be storytellers," she added. To learn, the teachers attended seminars and workshops.

Contributors to yesterday's program included Grosvert, Krispy Kreme, Handy ice Manila and Conrad Kallinger. The participants also read books from Scholastic.

The Inquirer Read-Along program, which aims to teach love of reading to children aged 7 to 12 is held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. The next session will be on July 28 with newly elected Manila Vice Mayor Isko Moreno as reader. Interested parties may call Elbie Capacete or Gilbe Beltran at tel. 897-8808, local 329.

Aplus METRO

VIEW FROM THE PASIG

Old trading route makes way for (new) alternative transport

By Kristine L. Alave

LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE UNATTRACTIVE VIEW along the Pasig River will turn pleasant, and maybe even postcard-pretty.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Center, in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, has identified relocation sites for around 10,000 informal settlers living on the banks on the river. According to PRRC and ADB sites, about 9,000 households in the river bank are expected to have relocated by the end of the year.

Not only are the settlements an eyesore and in danger of being swept away by floods during the rainy season, their residents also contribute to the waste that taints the city's major waterway, which connects Manila Bay to Laguna Bay.

Some of the displaced informal settlers were given an area where they could build their new homes within their own municipalities. Others were given low-cost houses in Cavite province and at the Bangkulasi Village 3 Project in Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal province, which was inaugurated last month.

New address

The resettlement area in the Rizal village owned by the National Housing Authority recently received about 2,000 Pasig River settlers. Another 1,000 units are being built to accommodate more informal dwellers, the ADB said.

Elizabeth Marjoo, officer in charge of the village, said about 500 of the beneficiaries came from San Jose, Manila, and the rest, from different parts of the tributary.

The relocation project, which has a price tag of P200 million, is funded through the ADB's Pasig River Environmental Management, Rehabilitation Sector Development Program. The cost per house and lot is approximately P320,000.

The construction work on the houses in the Rizal village, including community facilities like a multipurpose hall and school buildings for students in the primary to the tertiary level, is already 58 percent complete.

Complete with facilities

Other provisions such as a market, health and day care centers, are expected to be completed soon.

PEOPLE living on the banks of Pasig River must re-live in richer homes (right) on ADB. On the end of the year, some of them will be living in their own low-cost bungalows in Rodriguez, Rizal (INQ).

Each house is made of concrete with an average lot size of 40 sq m and an average floor area of 24 sq m.

The community has concrete roads with curbs and gutters, footpaths, underground drainage system, individual septic tanks and

OUT TRADING >>

Indeed we've grown younger. By embracing the new, we've recreated ourselves into a Digital Inquirer. From digital imaging to multimedia services, we never cease to innovate. And for helping us push the envelope over the years, we thank our clients and partners.

9 arrested in raid on cyber sex den

By Jeannette I. Andrade

POLICE ON FRIDAY NIGHT RAIDED AN apartment in Quezon City allegedly being used as a cyber sex den and rounded up nine women, including a minor and the operator of the establishment.

The raid was conducted by members of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Group led by Insp. Robert Rasco Jr. on the apartment at 78-E Kamuning St., Barangay E. Rodriguez in Cubao.

Rasco said the alleged cyber sex den, which was called "Sexy Asian Cams," could have been operating for nearly a year based on the lease agreement presented by the owner of the apartment.

The police official added that the owner did not know that the house was being used as a cyber sex den.

Evelyn Fernadez, 42, said to be the operator of the establishment, was in custody pending the police operation.

Minor among those arrested

Also arrested were eight workers identified as Ariana Salumbino, Judith Villaruelas, Marisela Morales, Angelica Sendaj, Claire Lazarte, Jasmine de la Cruz, Ravenna Bandoy and a 16-year-old girl.

The eight women, according to Rasco, used different names when dealing with customers.

The establishment charged customers $3.00 an hour, mostly paid through credit card.

The eight women, on the other hand, received P500.00 more per client.

Computers seized

Confiscated from the suspected cyber sex den were four web cams, six computer monitors, five desktop computers and several computer accessories.

Rasco said the suspects that the arrested women who were arrested said that they have been working in the establishment for only several months.

"They were probably only saying that because according to our informant, the company has been operating for at least a year and that is what is indicated in the lease," he pointed out.

Rasco added that they learned about the existence of the alleged cyber sex den after one of its former employees told them about it.

Fernadez, the alleged operator of the establishment, will be charged with violating Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003.

She also faces charges of violating Republic Act No. 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Act for employing a minor.

Rasco said that their were still trying to determine if the cyber women arrested could be held liable for any criminal offense, particularly prostitution, for working at the establishment.

MetroBriefs

Pedestrianized area no longer

THE 24/7 government's preparing to study options to restore the "pedestrianized" portion of Real between Sts. Cruz, Manila. The pedestrianized area — from the corner of Claro M. Recto Ave. (Recto Street) — was closed to vehicles in 2002 to serve as a makeshift terminal for the City Court of the "pedestrianization" of Real drained, a traditional must was noted with much enthusiasm as it had to traffic congestion to the area with vehicles forced to take narrow, secondary streets. Manuel Alfredo Lim, who led to the reopening of the Real-supporter's closed section yesterday morning, said he demonstrate reopening the area following complaints from jeeping drivers. "The 15 to 17 trips the drivers used to make were cut by half, reducing their income," he added. Lim also noted that the area, which was turned into a private vendors. Income of users for shops and prostitutes, as well as drug pushers, do not suit, residents, shopkeepers and pedestrians alike. Meanwhile, Beth Hayward prompts Real revenue. "The reopening of Real Avenue is expected to move hundreds of cars in this area and generate more revenues for the city government," Lim said. Real Avenue, he recalled, was the many decades the center of business in Manila.

Nonoi Andre

Alternative traffic routes

THE MMDA, Capital Region Police Office has advised the public that motorists coming from the Cubao-Araneta Center will be diverted to Gen. Roxas Avenue, Quezon City, while those coming from Cubao going to Ortigas Center can access Boulevard, while those coming from Edsa via Pasay going to the Cultural Plaza and Manila Film Center can make a left turn at the Buendia Flyover and then a right turn to E. de la Rama. Those going to the Senate can turn left on Buendia road. Motorists going to the Folk Arts Theater coming from Pasay are advised to take the Roxas Blvd service road and then turn right at P. Burgos Drive and then turn left to Finlay Building. The MMDA also advised the public that a portion of Julian Felipe from the intersection of Macapagal Blvd. and Buendia would be turned into a one-way street northbound going to Manila and P. Del Rosario Jakosalem going to Roxas Blvd. (northbound lane).

John R. Bunuan

Old trading route makes way . . .

From page A22

water and electric power supply.

River rehabilitation

To realize the Pasig river's economic development potential, it is necessary to rehabilitate the river system, restore water quality control wastewater discharges and promote urban renewal along its banks.

Efforts to rehabilitate the river, which is heavily polluted with industrial, municipal and household waste, are already underway to encourage more people to use the waterway as an alternative transport route.

Sixto officials said an increasing number of commuters in Metro Manila are discovering the joys and benefits of taking the Pasig River Ferry Service, the newest mass-transit waterway and thing surely does seem uncontroversial.

Since the service was opened last March, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Center (PRRC) has recorded an increase in the number of passengers.

Passengers increasing

Maria Bronza, PRRC public information and advocacy officer, said about 15,000 passengers took the ferry service last March. In its fourth month of operation, the number went up by more than double. Last June, when chance is earned, there were 31,120 passengers.

"The ridership is improving. We are trying to get more passengers to ride the ferry. Hopefully, it will decongest and alleviate land traffic in Metro Manila," the PRRC official explained.

Since the ferry started taking in passengers in March, the PRRC said it has recorded over 87,000 passengers, with Guadalupe and Escolta considered the busiest of the five operational stations along the route.

Most of the passengers, Bronza said, were students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila, which has its own station, and from schools and colleges near Escolta in downtown Manila.

She noted that passengers opt to take the ferry because it is not crowded and comfortable. The ferry has a maximum seating capacity of 200. "We cannot compromise the safety of the passengers," Bronza said.

Riding in comfort

The boat and the waiting rooms are clean and air-conditioned. There are also facilities for persons with disabilities. And since the ferry's windows are closed, one cannot smell the river water, which had turned off passengers of open-air buses plying the river.

Bronza noted that most foreigners commented on the richness and the silence of the ride, a fresh break from the noisy hustle and bustle of the metropolis.

Thus, Edsa, a home-oriented to overwhelm studying to people who had been told by their doctors to take a leave from stress-riding on the ferry.

Second Castle, a college student at the Philippine Maritime Institute in Manila, said he takes the ferry every day. He has cut his travelling time from Commodore, Makati to Escolta by almost half.

During the past forty days, Castle said he used to take his motorcycle and secure through the heavy traffic in Buendia to Ortigas-Makati Highway in downtown Manila.

Faster ride and cheaper, too

The commute took him one-and-a-half hours. Since he started taking the ferry, Castle said he only had to take one jeepney ride to the Guadalupe ferry station. The entire ride from Guadalupe to Makati City to Manila takes about 30 minutes, he said.

The student noted that he likes to take the ferry because it is efficient and he is not at the mercy of rush hour traffic jams.

Lani Baroza, a ferry first-timer, said she used to take a taxi from Mandaluyong to Quiapo, where she often visits her relatives. The taxi ride, she said, costs her at least P180.

She now spends only P35 for the ferry ride from Hulo, Mandaluyong City to Escolta, just a fraction of her taxi fare. Her only complaint is the 20 minute waiting time between the ferries. "The wait is quite long, especially if you are in a hurry," she said.

At present, the river route extends from Escolta to Guadalupe, with Hulo, Lambingan, Sta. Ana and the PUP stations in-between. By the end of the year, Bronza said they expect several more stations to be finished, with funding from both the government and ADB and resources from local governments.

The new stations—Caingual, Pasig City, Sto. Tomas, San Joaquin, Marcos Bridge, Napindan, Taguig, Plaza Mexico, Manila, Quezon Bridge, Intramuros, Manila, City and Valenzuela—are all under construction or on hold (donated) by the local government units.

Bronza said the new stations would cater to residents from the eastern part of the city to Valenzuela. She noted that they expect to have as many as 46,000 passengers taking the service every day once it is fully operational.

The Manila Transport Services Corp., the private firm that operates the service, currently has five boats. Another one is expected to be completed soon. Once the services gets going, the company aims to increase to 20 the number of boats plying the country's oldest highway and trading route.

ANTEL GROUP OF COMPANIES 20 years

THEME AND LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

Heroes on the high seas

By Miko Montilla

RIDING THE TROUBLED high seas of the Atlantic, Capt. Cuadrato Ganpi and his crew aboard the MV Sandviken rescued three Dutch nationals whose sailboat sank off the coast of Portugal on June 29.

At first, Ganpi said that he had hesitated in the rescue, seeing the stormy weather. But when the word arose, he stepped up to the task, in keeping with the beloved tradition.

In an e-mail exchange with the Inquirer, Ganpi said the Sandviken was headed for Arizona, a port city in northeastern Algeria, after sailing off from the Great Lakes in Quebec, Canada. Annaba was a center of early Christianity as St. Augustine of Hippo was bishop of the city from 396 to 430.

Ganpi said his vessel carried a load of about 34,000 metric tons of iron ore to be dropped off Arzaiba. But the sudden fury of the Atlantic forced the captain to alter his route.

"We made a course adjustment to reduce the heavy rolling of the vessel caused by the waves about 220 nautical miles off the coast of Portugal," Ganpi said.

The following morning, a broadcast over Lisboa Radio said a sinking sailboat with three persons on board needed assistance.

Ganpi told his crew to plot the last known position of the vessel after getting the coordinates from Lisboa.

"I immediately call Lisboa Radio that the vessel was close to [our position by] about 12 miles," he said.

Minutes after their contact with Lisboa Radio, another ship, a container vessel, was also in contact with authorities and told them that it had sighted a life raft loaded with possibly the sailboat's passengers.

The ship's captain also told Lisboa Radio that he was about seven miles from the last known coordinates of the sailboat.

Since the container vessel would arrive in the area first, Ganpi assumed that its captain would take charge as rescue commander. In fact, the other vessel's captain called Ganpi and told him that his ship was maneuvering toward the life raft.

"I responded that we were monitoring their movement and that we were on maneuvering speed," said Ganpi, adding that they had also sighted the life raft.

For the presiding canons of the Admiralty made it difficult for the rescue commander to rescue the victims.

Ganpi got a call from the other ship's captain, asking him if he could do the rescue.

Ganpi says he sees the other ship trim to target as waves pushed the ship away from the life raft.

"The captain again called and asked if we had a rescue boat," he said. Upon learning that our rescue craft was available, the captain was assured that it would be better if we did the rescue.

"I told the captain we would try our best," he said. Despite the bad weather conditions, Ganpi headed toward the life raft with all available lines and life rings on deck.

Ganpi assembled his rescue crew and told them to be on standby in case they had to launch the rescue boat.

Armed with 26 years of experience as a sailor and a talented lifeguard crew, Ganpi was able to maneuver close to the life raft, to close that it was no longer necessary to launch the lifeboat's rescue boat. The rescue took only eight minutes, he added.

Medics at the ship immediately attended to the victims, who had been about four hours on the life raft.

"They were brought to the ship's hospital, given blankets, hot egg soup and tea," he said. One of the victims was given first aid for a wound on his knee."

The victims were Dutch and their sailboat, the Breitling, had made due to an unremedied leak, Ganpi recounted.

Hall an hour on the Sandviken, a rescue helicopter flew in and evacuated the Dutch survivors to shore for further medical treatment.

No family reunification law yet for World War II vets

DEAR ATTY. LOIL

My older sister was petitioned by our father in 1999. In 2000, our father returned to the Philippines. Now that the Family Reunification Act has been approved, will the petition for my sister be affected since the petitioner is living in the Philippines? Can I give her my affidavit of support in place of my father? Thank you.

Mirlet in LA

* * *

Dear Mirlet in LA,

Many Filipino World War II veterans were naturalized in the early 1990s by legislation of the United States Congress. Many of them filed immigrant petition for their adult children residing in the Philippines. Most of these veterans are already in their twilight years and getting very sickly. There are a number of them who decided to come back to the Philippines and wait for their children for unused immigrant visas.

INFO

Jose dos Santos Jr.
Inquirer

There are only a limited number of visas available in a given year for Philippine nationals, there are more petitions filed than the number of available visas. This resulted in the backlog of the processing of visas. For the month of June, only the petitions filed in 1992 are being processed. Your sister's petition was filed in 1999 and as we was a yet unavailable for her. Every month, the US Department of State comes out with a Visa Bulletin which indicates what petitions are being processed.

Sen. Daniel Akaka introduced legislation in the US Congress exempting petitions by Filipino veterans from the numerical limitations so as to be able to grant visas to their children immediately. This legislation was introduced this year and was incorporated in the bigger Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill. But on June 7, the Senate voted to delete this bill which contains the family reunification of veterans. Contrary to your statements, there is no family reunification act that has been approved in the US Congress.

Until when visas are made available to children of Filipino veterans, an affidavit of support may be executed by a requestor, and you may be eligible to be a requestor if you are either a US citizen or a green card holder. When that time comes, your father should then return to the US as he is the petitioner of the immigrant visa petition.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Atty. Loil

MIG's monthly for Immigration Information. Email Inquirer at info@inquirer.com

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

WORLD BRIEFS

Lebanese Army closes in on Islamists

NAHR AL-BARED, Lebanon—Lebanese troops closed in on positions of the hard Islamists holed up in a besieged refugee camp on Saturday after two days of heavy fighting in which 11 soldiers were killed. The troops traded machine gunfire with militiamen still dug in inside the Nahr al-Bared camp, which was scarring under heavy bombardment with army helicopters, an AFP correspondent at the scene said. A spokesperson said the army has further closed in on the Islamists who were now only controlling an area 300 m by 600 m on a small hill inside the camp. AFP

Media tycoon Conrad Black convicted of fraud

BLACK AFP

CHICAGO—Media tycoon Conrad Black, known for his lavish parties and extravagant personality, was found guilty Friday of fraud and obstruction of justice after being accused of robbing his company's coffers. The Canadian-born British lord, who once ran one of the world's largest newspaper empires, betrayed little emotion as he was convicted on four charges, one of obstruction and three of fraud, which could carry a maximum of 30 years in jail. He could also stand to lose millions in fines and forfeitures. Black, 62, was cleared of eight other fraud charges and one of obstructing justice in a case stemming from the sale of hundreds of newspapers in Canada and the United States by his Chicago-based company Hollinger International. The high-brow newspaper mogul, who counted celebrities and politicians among his friends, vowed to appeal. AFP

$3 BM from 1,300 victims: US scammers jailed

RESTON, Virginia—A couple convicted of bilking more than 1,300 people out of more than $217 million in what prosecutors called a pyramid scheme were sentenced to the maximum prison terms they could receive. Howard Welch, a 63-year-old British citizen, must serve 20 years for wire and mail fraud and conspiracy. US District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith ruled Friday. Lori Ann Thrasher, his 50-year-old girlfriend and a former cross-country volleyball for Virginia Beach, must serve 15 years on similar charges. According to court records, the couple held seminars around the country selling financial plans called "guaranteed riskless," a type of tax-free investment usually reserved for churches. There was a $1,000 fee to join the seminar and participants were invited to invest as much as they could. In less than four years, the couple took in $40 million and made about $6.5 million in personal profit. In some months, according to prosecutors, for $100, the couple wired $237 million in bank overseas and had the money transferred around the world and a mailing business with accountants that money was safe. AP

Thousands protest over Pakistani mosque assault

ISLAMABAD—Several thousand Pakistani Islamists rallied on Friday to denounce the government for ordering an army crackdown on an radical mosque in the capital, Islamabad. Protests were held in several towns and cities across the country after Friday prayers but none was very big and there were no reports of clashes, as there [illegible] of hardline clerics arrested in Tuesday's commando assault on Islamabad's Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, which created a week-long standoff between militants and security forces. Two soldiers were also killed. Musharraf, in an address to the nation on Thursday, spoke of his resolve to "eliminate terrorism and extremism from every nook and corner." Reuters

US Senate votes to double Bin Laden bounty to $50M

WASHINGTON—THE US SENATE FRIDAY doubled the bounty on Osama bin Laden to $50 million, reflecting frustration that the al-Qaida mastermind remains free and rising anxiety over possible future attacks.

The vote followed a flurry of reports that the group behind the Sept. 11 strikes in 2001 had rebuilt its safe haven, leadership and capacity to plot severe operations, and was trying to sneak operatives into the United States.

The Senate voted by 97-1 to boost the price on Bin Laden's head under the State Department Rewards for Justice program, which has already paid out millions of dollars for top US targets, including Saddam Hussein's sons.

U. Alexis Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice "to authorize a reward of $50 million for the capture or credible information leading to the capture or death of Osama bin Laden."

The bill also addresses frustration among some lawmakers that the Bush administration has still not caught Bin Laden, despite launching a massive manhunt after the Sept. 11 attacks, nearly six years ago.

It requires the secretaries of state and defense and the director of national intelligence to produce a report to Congress every 90 days on progress towards bringing Bin Laden and other senior leaders to justice.

North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan, who wrote the amendment to a defense policy bill, said: "It has been six years, and al-Qaida is now rebuilding its terrorist training camps, along with the Taliban, in safe harbor.

"It has been six years and they are reconstituting their ability to attack us," he said.

Dorgan warned al-Qaida "remains the greatest threat to the United States, even after those six long years; after two wars... after billions of dollars spent on those wars and for homeland security, after the deaths of thousands of our soldiers, and after the wounding of tens of thousands of our military."

The only senator to vote against the raised bounty was conservative Republican Jim Bunning, who said catching Bin Laden was already a US priority and if Dorgan "truly supported" the fight against al-Qaida, he would not back a symbolic measure.

Senators who spoke on the amendment mentioned a leaked draft of a new National Intelligence Estimate, which reportedly warned al-Qaeda had rebuilt a safe haven and leadership structure in Pakistan's border areas. AFP

FAREWELL TO LADY BIRD JOHNSON

The casket of former US first lady Lady Bird Johnson is carried to a hearse during a funeral service at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, on July 13. Lady Bird Johnson, who championed conservation and assisted unsuccessfully for the political career of her husband former President Lyndon B. Johnson, died in Texas at the age of 94 on July 11. AFP/TOM

Australia charges Indian doctor in UK plot

MELBOURNE, AUS-tralian Federal Police charged a 27-year-old Indian doctor on Saturday over his "involvement" links with the alleged perpetrators of the attempted car bomb attacks in Britain on June 29 and 30.

Mohammed Haneef, 27, appeared in a Brisbane court charged with providing support to a terrorist organization. He was remanded in custody until Monday when his bail application will be heard.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said the police charge cited police concerns over the circumstances, rather than intention.

"The allegation being that he was reckless about some of the support he provided to that group; in particular, the provision of his mobile phone's SIM card by the use of the group," Haneef's lawyer Peter Russo told Australian radio that Haneef was "very upset" by news of the charges, which could lead to 15 years in prison if he is convicted.

The Queensland hairdresser is one of six Indian doctors questioned in Australia over the attempted al Qaeda linked plot in Britain. The others have been released.

Lawyers for the 27-year told the court the doctor was not a flight risk as his passport has been confiscated.

After two sessions lasting more than an hour each, the court adjourned the hearing until Monday.

Police chief Keelty said the charges came after 12 days of investigation, with almost 2,000 police and lawyers working on the case, and sifting through the electronic equivalent of 30,000 four-drawer filing cabinets of material.

"This is the quantity of material that has been seized in electronic form, from various locations," he told reporters in Canberra.

Two car bombs primed to explode in London's theatre and nightclub district were discovered early on June 29. The following day a vehicle was driven into the terminal building at Glasgow airport and burst into flames.

Police opposed Haneef's bail application, and Keelty said it remained to be seen whether British police had any evidence to support an extradition request.

Haneef was detained at Brisbane airport on July 2 as he was about to board a flight to India.

All six suspects in Britain are medics from the Middle East or India. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
Boonen asserts Tour might /A28

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teodoro S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Bidua Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

CSR EXPO 2007
15-18 July 2007

RP quintet rips Syria; Chinese fall

By Manny R. Castillo

REDEMPTION CAME SWIFT and on promised.

Willy-guard Jimmy Alapag, just a night after helping down ABC Philippines, redeemed himself brightest, leading the national squintet to a 92-79 victory over Syria last night and into the finals of the Smart-Littleton International at The Arena in San Juan.

A 20-point, seven-assist performance that came a night after he said that he would be better helped/best the Filipinos' comeback from 10 points down in the first half.

The real part of the win, though, is the fact that the Philippines won't be able to cross paths again with China, or lose out for the next two weeks, or until the Filipinos is played in Yokohama, Japan later this month.

China, whose 77-75 victory over the Philippines on Friday night was sealed in great deal by two Alapag free throws in the dying seconds, forced out of the title race after being upset by Lebanon, 71-77, in the first game.

The Filipinos, the Lebanese and the Chinese finished tied with 2-1 slates of, for the short elimination round and China was bounced out because of an inferior quotient.

The Filipinos now face the Lebanese in the title game scheduled at 6:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum today, while China battles the winless Syrians in the game for the consolation at 2:30 p.m.

Asi Taulava and Yeng Guiao Norwood had 14 each for the Gamecocks, while Dondon Hontiveros and Kelly Williams chipped in with 13 and 11, respectively.

Alapag had three of the Philippines' 10 connections from beyond the three-point arc, all of them coming in the last half which boosted the Gamecocks to a 51-44 lead.

It looked like easy going for the Filipinos from there until the Syrians crept to within 78-81 entering the final three minutes. But Kelly Raymundo was hyped off a 13-9 tear with a nifty move under-neath as the Filipinos put the game to bed with less than a minute left.

Freddie Bernard fueled El Ghazali's quick ascend on the first point of the Lebanese attack, scampering 36 points and drilling the shots that told in the endgame for his squad's breakthrough win.

Conservative three-point shooter Ibrahim Ajjan Mahmoud actually helped down the Chinese, who limped to the finish with two misses in 11 from 3-Point Shots on two out of four.

MILLER: Call into MVP

Aces, Pals seek crucial PBA finals edge today

AFTER ASSERTING HIS CHOICE AS MVP, Willie Miller tries to catch shades closer to the PBA-Formula Cup title when the Aces break their ice with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals at the Araneta Coliseum today.

Game one is set at 6 p.m. with the winner getting the most important psychological boost in what has become a best-of-three series—a series in favor edge—after Alaska salvaged an 86-82 decision Friday to force a 2-2 deadlock in the playoffs.

By failing to put the Aces in a 1-1 hole that only one team in league history has ever come out of, the Phone Pals now have to face a rejuvenated Ace squad expected to come out with all guns firing like they did in the ousted minutes of Game 4.

And Miller, who received his second Most Valuable Player trophy before the game, is expected to register his splendid season job for the Aces.

The 6-foot guard, who won his first MVP trophy in 2002 while playing for Red Bull, finished with 29 points, matching his tournament high, with 13 of those points coming in the most crucial time in the match.

Miller unleashed a seven-point debut inside the final 3:57, with Miller hurling a hand to all of the Aces' points in an 11-0 run that made it 84-80 heading into the final 26.3 seconds.

"It's the MVP, what can I say?" Alaska coach Tim Cone asked Miller. "The reason a player gets

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RP jins bag 40 golds in Korea

THE PHILIPPINES, AMASSED 40 GOLD medals in different events and age groups in the First World Taekwondo Cultural Expo in Jeollabuk-do Province in South Korea recently.

In the freestyle sparring, the RP team pulled up 22 golds, 14 silvers and nine bronzes, and collected 71 golds, 16 silvers and 11 bronzes in individual poomsae or form and three silvers and seven bronzes in group poomsae.

"This kind of tournament is used as an introduction for our future stars," said national coach Ricky Santiago, who added that Olympians Timothy Go and Anselm Lee, former winners Mervanis Domingo and JR Rivero used to compete in this type of competitions.

Held here ranging from 10 to 20, the national jins competed against their counterparts from Korea, Russia, China, United States, Kazakhstan and Vietnam.

Jane Stella Quintana, Paolo Louis Jarmolaw, Daniel Bermejo, Emmanuel Moses Chan, James Edward Uytuk, Anthony Gwen Sarino, Joseph Benjamin Dollet, Adrianne Ore Ibana and Bernard Anthony Ramos captured a gold medal each in the young junior boys sparring.

Dollet, Dustin Jacob Bilda and Pamela Aaron Agojo also bagged titles in the individual poomsae in the same age category.

Bilda joined girls Patricia Graciales, Paulina Marie Nagpiar, Mary Josephine Aubrey Leigh Nell Magpali, Sykaira Liz Punzal, Ayeisl May Ildefonso and Pamela Lois Gabal were bronze medal girls. Solomon made it a double for also winning in the individual poomsae. —Mary Anthony Dayao

Fiba Asia title SBP's wish

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MS. FREDDY Ilusorio, who used to work for the Hongkong-based Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Dream-Nine, has a history behind the "new look" of national expat Jordan Fan. Ilusorio and Ricky Reyes made

Maybe you haven't noticed, but the two cagers have grown their hair long. Reyes is Marino style (or is it Prince Valiant?) and Jordan a la Bill Gibson in Lethal Weapon.

Most said she doesn't think the two are trying to save money on haircut, or trying to make a fashion statement.

"I know what Ilus is all about. They're trying to confuse the enemy," Yihen said.

Everybody used to do that, she said...change hairdos, jersey numbers, etc. It's trick used to work, but not anymore because the players end up facing each other year in and year out and they get to recognize even each other's breath even if they're blindfolded.

Fans scouting, she said, has gone out of style because, except for the rookies, the same cagers play in the major tournaments and nothing is left to hide.

Scouting is now done, according to Yihen, during the tournament itself.

"For us, however, it might be necessary to scout relentlessly way before the tournament because we've been out of touch, having been suspended by the Fiba for two years. Once we get into the groove of things though, we might scout itself the need to scout way ahead of a tournament, just like the rest," she said.

Going back to Ricky and Dondon, who knows? Maybe the game plan is to switch hairdos with teammates Mark Caguioa and JC Intal-Intal when they report for active duty in Yokohama, Japan.

I can't imagine or recall Mark and JC wearing their hair long though.

Who knows over time what they did!

I guess this is a trite question, but I like asking it anyway on special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas.

And now that SBP executive director Peter Gregorio is celebrating his 40th—the beginning of his life—on July 22 I just had to ask him my most favorite question:

"If your fondest personal wish could be granted by the birthday genie, what would it be?"

Well, one does not have to be a Nostradamus to guess what Peter's wish is.

"My wish? That we win the Fiba-Asia Men's Championship in Yokohama, Japan, not just as a birthday gift for me and MVP (SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan) but for the entire Filipino nation."

I guess Butch/MVP's wish too. His birthday was July 11 but the celebration is on July 17. Peter and wife, Michele, whose birthday is a day after (July 23). Ben's, will have a joint bash on the 23rd.

Jao targets Shell Superbikes lead

CEBU PRINCE CHAMPION JOEY "JAOCK" Shell Advance/Kawasaki hopes to get his ninth win in a row in the 2008 Shell Advance Superbikes Series third leg today at the Subic Bay International Racing Circuit (4 races of endurance event for the last leg, Subic Bay's 1st to 3rd positions will be held on the following day).

Jao is the current leader in the Philippine Superbike Championship with 53 points. Main Ramos of Yamaha is in the second leader with 45 points. Registration is ongoing. For details, log on at www.bikersgarage.blogspot.com or call (632) 817-2591, 7266486 or fax 893-1093.

Boonen finall

RISING IN BLOOD, FRANCE—BELGIUM'S TOM Boonen won Friday's 196th stage of the Tour de France in a United Finish, while Swiss rider Fabian Cancellara retained the leader's yellow jersey for a seventh straight day.

Boonen won the 139.5-kilometer (124-mile) trek from the burgundy town of Semur-en-Auxois toward the foot of Les Alps in Bourg-en-Bresse. Friday's was the last stage before three days on the Alps.

Boonen, a former world champion, collected his fifth Tour stage victory and his first since 2005 by outpacing Spain's Oscar Freire and German Erik Zabel in the final dash.

"I'm really happy," said Boonen. "The legs have been strong from the first day but this year things haven't happened as well. I haven't had a lot of luck."

Cancellara finished in the leading pack, and holds a 21-second lead over German's Andreas Kloeden in second. Filippo Pozzato of Italy is third, 28 seconds behind.

Kloeden and his Astana teammate Alexandre Vi-

Aces, Pals... From page A17

There are very few coaching tie-ups. Sometimes a coach just has to step away and watch.

"His man is my guy. He more than proved [he/she is the MVP," said the outspoken American while giving Miller pats on the back inside the powerroom.

For Talk N' Text, the loss is hard to swallow since the Phone Pals wielded control all night before sputtering when the game was at the line.

LJ Ballinger's absence in the final 1:42, where he fired four easy Texts to the line for a three-point play made possible by a Miller feed inside, told heavily on the Phone Pals.

Ballinger was hosting his way against the other Alaska stars until he fouled out and as Phone Pal on the floor was really able to pick up the slack.

Enid Miller took note. Coast's title hopes seemed to be fading anew while Jerrick Pumaren of Talk N' Text appeared just a few defender steps away from ordering champagne bottles to be chilled.

But with a burst of brilliance, Miller sent the series back to where it started.

"Sometimes, things like that, without rhyme or reason, happen," Conic said. "I don't know what we did right out there, but we didn't." —Reinerio R. Castillo

y asserts might

TOM Boonen of Belgium sprints ahead of Erik Zabel of Germany (right) to win the sixth stage of the Wide Tour de France. AP PHOTO

9-BALL TOUR

Alcano, Manalo get boot

Wild Orchid, Empire King duel today

Renault launch set

Aguilar battles Thepib

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2007

MVP/LASTERBY'S Aldrech Ramos grabs the rebound against UST's Jun Dizon in their game yesterday

Archers, Tams destroy rivals

By Jasmine W. Reyes

FLASHING THEIR UP-TEMPO OFFENSE, the De La Salle University Green Archers rolled over Ibn Adamson Bahonan with a 99-75 triumph yesterday to claim a share of the UAAP basketball tournament lead at the Ynares Sports Complex in Antipolo.

The Archers only needed seven minutes to warm up before setting the tone for the blowout win with an 11-0 outburst that resulted in a 20-12 advantage late in the first quarter after walking in 9-12.

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Sports Complex)
12:30 — MS vs UP (W)
02:30 — Ateneo vs JRU (M)
(FINAL)

They're at one but others are push the ball," said coach Franz Pumaren after La Salle moved into a tie at 2-0 with idle Ateneo and University of the East.

For Ateneo's University letter-winning chairman Emmanuel Trinidad, the second time as the Tamaraws trampled on the Tigers, 81-66.

Marlon Adolfo and rookie forward Ric Caneda led on early 11-2 charge for the Tamaraws, who went on to make a 51-32 cushion at the end of the second quarter.

The Tamaraws improved to 1-1 while the Tigers and the Falcons fell into the cellar at 0-2 with University of the Philippines.

Archer Ryo Matsubayashi exploded for 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in 17 minutes of action and overcame two 20 Cazin had 13 rebounds and four steals in just seven minutes of play in the first half.

"Ryo showed he's a better player than his first game," said Pumaren of the lanky forward, who made up for his measly four-point output in the Archers' opening day win, 102-92, against the Falcons.

Tanduay
TANDUAY (PH)
LA SALLE (99—Cazin 13, Matsubayashi 17, Adamson 10, Villanueva 10, Yang 6, Barua 2, Mendoza 2, Lim 0, Ramos 0, Lao 0, Ramirez 0, Ilustre 0, Ramos 0, Ramirez

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THE STARTING POINT

Sunday BIZ
Business Feature Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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'Satellite man' rises above himself

Businessman Francis Chua cites parental 'push' and other factors that propelled him to success

IN THIS ISSUE

Feisty lady trader tries solo in Bohol /B2
A taste of durian in Pinoy's fruit basket /B2
Young, soft voices as farmers' teachers /B3

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN FRANCIS CHUA, PRESIDENT OF THE Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, met Xi, he chose not to talk much with patrons of the galaxy and the solar system.

He had read about the Russian satellite launch in scientific magazines and told his mother he wanted to visit outer space.

His mother simply told him: to focus on studying his lessons and not to think about things that were beyond him.

But the fascination with outer space persisted and in 1993, or 20 years later, he realized his dream by becoming personally involved in the establishment of the Mabuhay Satellite Corp., the country's first.

Mabuhay now provides for a large part of the communication requirements of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

The move started simply enough. Chua was invited by the Department of Trade and Industry to join then President Fidel Ramos on a trade mission to China, with an eye to forging a project which Filipino and Chinese businessmen could work on.

He sniffed up a storm by asserting that he wanted a satellite project. But he had to leave for the United States to be with his mother who would undergo a cataract operation. While there, he got a call from Beijing asking the Chinese were interested in a business tie-up.

He quickly got on a flight back to Manila and scanned those just in time to join the presidential flight to Beijing. Somehow he was able to put together a group of investors in former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, former SSS-7 head Abraham Jimenez and Antonio Cojuangco Jr., who was then head of PLDT. The largest telecommunications firm in the country.

No easy feat

Putting together such a major project as a satellite firm in the country was no easy feat but Chua's business acumen, skills and connections prepared him for it.

Born to a typical Chinese family he lived in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, during the early years of his life. His father, who operated a lumber and hardware business, inspired the children, occasionally Francis, the only son, to work at an early age.

Chua shares he reached an expertise where he no longer needed the scales to tell him the weight of the nails he was selling (nails used to be sold by weight). He quickly fine-tuned to add and multiply using the abacus as calculators were non-existent then in the province.

That training helped him years later when he took up Industrial Engineering at the University of the Philippines where competitions were made on a daily rule. He graduated cum laude from the graduating class of 1974 which started with three sections in Dasi freshman year.

That Chua relates well with all kinds of people may be gleaned from the numerous schools he enrolled in. He attended three schools in elementary and for high school he was enrolled in Xavier School.

At Xavier, he did well in the courses except for English. The principal called the father to say he needed a tutor.

Work to excel

"Right there and then my father said no. My son does not need a tutor," Chua recalls his father telling the principal.

His father's reaction proved to be a turning point in the young Chua. "My father gave me confidence and encouragement."

This made him work hard to excel. When his parents died in Xavier, he and his sisters lived in a relative's place in Salamanca, then part of Batasan province. During rides from Batasan to Xavier, he would study his lessons.

Or he would analyze the buildings along the way, applying geometry lessons specially on angles and elevations. "Whatever I learned in class I automatically applied," he says.

At home, he willed himself to watch television for only 30 minutes every week.

He clearly recalls why he made this choice. "One Saturday while watching a group of singers on TV, it suddenly occurred to me that they (the singers) were making a living while I'm wasting my time."

But other than focusing his spare time to learning, there were other lessons learned in school that had a tremendous impact in his life later on.

During his first year in high school, his teach-

>>PAGE B2

Going solo in Bohol

WHITE sand beach in Panglao Island

FROM BAGUIO TO BOHOL(P and now to Bohol.

Spurred by its successful foray into the hotel and resort business with Marcotel, the Fernandez-led Phil Pilar group is moving to strike out on its own with its wholly-owned Amorita Resort in Panglao Island, Bohol.

Amorita Managing Director Marvee D. del Pilar said her group was encouraged by the success of results of its partnership with the Pilmico Group in Mactan Beach and Marcotel Boracay were the pana four years that they decided to try its hand in marketing and managing its own brand of hotels.

(The group is not parting ways with Pilmico which, through its Farmhouse Management Co., will run Amorita).

"We felt that with our experience in running two successful resorts, we're ready to go forward and expand in the island," said del Pilar, a scion of the Hernandez family which runs Money Lines, the country's biggest bus company. "Our goal is to be present in all tourists hot spots in the country. If we are successful with Amorita, our next

MARVEE DEL PILAR: Solo bid

destination is Palawan."

After announcing (we) big Mcrand branches in the country (Baguio in 2003 and Boracay in 2006), Del Pilar said the group has narrowed down the challenges in the hotel business to two—maintenance and people management.

"You always plan it to be perfect but when you see it for daily operation, what you planned is not practical or the design is wrong. Amorita is against practicality," del Pilar said. "No matter how much you perfect it, you just can't."

Key hurdles

Del Pilar said people management was one of the key hurdles in running the business largely because they were in the service industry. "The product is intangible. How do you balance good people and people? How do you pick the right crew? It's a tough balancing act," said Del Pilar.

Del Pilar said they chose Amorita's cliff side location, which offers a 1.6K degree view of Panglao Island's white sand beach, because it wanted to cater to 5-star resort customers, particularly from England, Germany and Russia, that were not yet being catered to by resort operators.

"Most of the resorts in Panglao are Europeans who long for Europe's unspoiled charms 20 years ago," said Del Pilar.

While building Amorita, Del Pilar said her group brushed up on the European resort circuit by attending in the world's largest tourism fair, the International Tourism Bourse in Berlin.

Del Pilar said they also assembled with the various ambassadors of major European countries to learn more about the travel and spending habits of their countrymen.

European tourists

She learned that Europeans mostly spend their annual two-week holidays in tropical countries like the Philippines. If they come here, they usually make a stop over first in Singapore, then they go Palawan for the second leg, and discover either Boracay or Cebu for their last leg. She think that Bohol is fast becoming a part of this European circuit," said Del Pilar.

Panglao Island is 20 minutes away from the Tagbilaran airport and is serviced by the major Philippine carriers.

Amorita has 20 deluxe rooms but Del Pilar said its 12-pool villas were the resort's main attraction because European tourists travel mostly as couples. "Each villa has its own plunge pool and private because the foreigners want more privacy. The deluxe rooms are for Filipinos who prefer to travel in groups," del Pilar said.

The resort is currently on a dry run. — Gil Cabacungan Jr.

'Satellite man'

Previous page B1

ve as Director succeeded a word to his essay and told him there was no such character. Chua was so sure of the word that he asked his teacher to check his own dictionary.

Boy enough there was such a character.

"Not pursuing yourself right is not exactly good," Chua points out. Despite having the highest IQ and grades, the teacher did not award Chua the the honor for Chinese. It went to another classmate with a lower grade.

Chua went to the principal to plead his case. The principal asked him to just bury the incident to himself and gave him a medal in recognition of his achievements.

"Next year the teacher was overtime to be found in school," Chua relates.

But he kept his cool and the effort was fled in that day. Chua does not like confusion.

"I just explain to them that this is your problem and it is not me. I am not correct it. At an some time some of them learn on their own."

Chua has an interesting theory about employees. While some employees would reward 100 percent performance from their people, Chua is not satisfied. His employees can get two thirds out of 10 dots.

"If they can meet 50 percent, they do not need a job, they will quickly as management," says Chua, who now has about 500 employees.

Besides, he says, if you ask him to do things and he is not able to do it, you will become frustrated. Of course, he adds, this is just for the work ethic.

Chua at present is into various business fields—stock brokerage, real estate development, some conclusions, coal, some investments, furniture.

He attributes his business success to having studied in the University of the Philippines where he had to go through what he described as its "rightwinger overthrowing system" and professors who "were not the miserable but gave good training.

"If you survive UP, you will survive the world," he notes.

Graduating valedictorian from Xavier, Chua was offered scholarships from the different schools.

Although the scholars was to go to Ateneo, which is also run by the Jesuits, same as Xavier, he opted to go to UP to experience what he felt was the real world.

"If I go to the Ateneo again, I will be one for from reality. I will be living in an ivory tower," he says.

He believed so much in the UP experience that his two daughters also went to the state university. He also sent his brother to study in the UP College of Law before going to Harvard.

When martial law was declared in 1972, right after Chua graduated from UP, he thought of going to and working in the US.

"I'm somebody who was turned in UP, martial law was not acceptable. I felt there was no future in the country," he says.

But he could not get a US visa. So he approached a family friend, who was with the Pacific Banking Corp., who ordered him to an American bank who gave him a certification. He got the visa.

"But after getting it, I went back to the banker who helped me to thank him and the fellow threw me and gave me all the reasons why I should not go. He told me, 'I have observed you and you know how to deal. Let's put up a company. And I'm not into politics with any government official, call me.'"

Having connections

Chua knows the value of knowing people and having connections.

Back in college, his father ranked him in tenth on the reversal of their downhill fortune from the Bureau of Normity in Quezon City, went UP.

For weeks, Chua went to the bureau almost daily to check on the

'If you survive UP, you will survive the world'

their supplement. But the staff assured it work done. Home, the format of the application was revised, so Chua was told he must all over again by filling up the new application form.

He never lost his cool, though. He patiently filled up the new form, submitted what were required, and listened to what the staff there were talking about—particularly what the head of the bureau started talking.

"I would at their listening. I heard that his wife' bribed, his young son bribed, etc."

Finally, Chua was stationed enough courage and approached the bureau chief. He introduced himself as someone from the convention business and that maybe he could help his the man's house.

The opportunity is needed. Chua got the license.

But going back in his plan to go to the US, Chua said his banker friend talked him out of it. He says he just decided to help his partners, who were legal people, since his father forced to dismiss to his businesses.

It was not long after that Chua decided to go into business himself. He put up a brothmore in the Ortigas area. In April 1974, with his banker friend giving P300,000 as seed money.

Chua says that by November that year, he returned everything to the banker but the bank official gave it back to Chua for following month. It meant his business would be viable.

Chua says since then he had been giving the banker P300,000 every year.

Secret

And it was only two years later that the banker told him a secret. It was his mother who had talked to the banker to donate. Former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Chua says his mother told the banker, "This son an only son, how would you feel if you were abroad and left your parents alone?"

But it turned out for the best. And Chua continued to put up businesses.

"I owe it all to my parents who pushed me and challenged me. I always have to be better than myself."

Durian industry launches campaign to promote 'King of Fruits'

DAVAO CITY—A FOREIGN tourist, who got to taste durian for the first time when he visited the Philippines, was overheard as how exclaimed that the fruit "smells like hell but tastes like heaven."

It's an experience shared by many Filipinos and an increasing number of fruit lovers across the country who have become hooked to the rich and creamy taste of what is referred to as the "King of Fruits."

The durian craze can be attributed in part to the aggressive efforts of industry organizations to introduce durian to the Filipino palate and to establish a wider international domestic market.

One such group is the Davao-based Mindanao Fruit Industry Council (Mindfruit), which regularly organizes durian harvests across the country to entice more Filipinos to the Visayas and Luzon to make the fruit part of their regular diets.

"Eating durian is an acquired taste. Through the durian festivals, we want Filipinos in other parts of the country to taste the fruit and see why Mindanao go crazy over it," says Jessica Pantoja, president of Mindfruit.

Pantoja says the festivals have been effective marketing tools, as local demand for the fruit continues to rise.

He recalled that in last year's durian festival in Cebu, more than 300 crates of durian were sold within an hour. Seven of the festival's opening.

"All the stocks were sold out and the additional orders after the festival. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that a lot of Cebuanos have already developed a taste for the fruit," he says.

Potential bestseller

Pantoja, a lawyer by profession who has been involved in durian production, believes durian has the potential to become a "best-seller" in the domestic fruit market in the coming years.

The key to achieving this, he explains, is for industry members to further improve the product quality and current marketing practices. "This will entice more Filipinos to go beyond the durian's strong smell and buy the fruit because of its rich taste and health benefits."

The Mindfruit, in partnership with the Durian Growers Council of Region XI, recently conducted a Durian Techno-Market Forum. The two-day event was supported by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, which has been working with Mindfruit to improve the competitiveness of Mindanao's fruit industry.

"The forum targeted the latest production technologies and selected market information needed by growers and buyers," Pantoja explains.

The event also provided a venue for growers and other industry stakeholders to exchange farming experiences and best practices.

Government researchers were present to discuss relevant industry topics, including post and diseases management, farm business handling, market development and trading and commodities.

Pantoja says the future looks bright for the durian industry. Members of the industry are looking forward to the day when durian will be included in every Filipino family's fruit baskets," he says.

Durian is grown predominantly in Southern Mindanao, particularly in the Davao Region, with Davao del Sur's figures show that 7,000 hectares of the region's farmland is planted to durian. The area annually produces 18,000 metric tons of the fruit, which are shipped to markets in Mindanao and key cities in the Visayas and Luzon.

US firm ...

From page B1

certified organic coconuts and to rate the market of vinegar—a subsidiary of Isaacson subsidiaries...as a truly low product.

According to company chief executive Brian H. Hallberg, who founded the firm with his Filipina wife Marisonia, they had the idea of selling WCO over the Internet in 2000 after having lived at the foothills of Mt. Apo in Davao.

"I (did) not really expect people to order it because it was a bit expensive since we had to hire people to make the oil, and shipping costs a lot because of the weight," Hallberg said.

"We were so surprised when people started ordering, and then re-ordering it because they felt so good after using it," he added.

The oil is also sold in some other coconut oil like it on the market.

"Before long we had businesses contacting us asking how to order it in bulk," he said. "So we decided to build a small factory to produce this kind of oil, and almost abandoned the product because we didn't want to lose the small, hand way of making it."

Principled leadership

HOW COULD A PERSON BE punished, kicked and spat upon, yet remain composed? How on earth could a group of people repeatedly attack, handcuff tasers and ethnic slurs without retaliating in kind? What would motivate a person willingly to endure the emotional humiliation and physical abuse of an adversary?

A leader's way

In 1957, Martin Luther King Jr. studied out his peaceful campaign of nonviolent resistance to racism in America.

"At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love. In struggling for human dignity the oppressed people of the world must not allow themselves to become bitter or to indulge in hate campaign. To retaliate with hate and bitterness would do nothing but intensify the hate in the world. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough and morality enough to say no! The chain of hate. This can be done only by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives."

Martin Luther King's principled leadership inspired a generation of young civil rights protesters to embrace the powerful strategy of nonviolent resistance...even when they endured violent acts of bigotry.

Monumental protest

The history of the civil rights movement in America is filled with stories of heroism in the face of hatred. But perhaps no single incident tested King's principle of nonviolent resistance better than Bloody Sunday...the name historians have attached to a monumental protest march in Alabama.

On March 7, 1965, around 600 civil rights marchers planned to walk from Selma, Alabama, to the state courthouse with cattle prods and drummed their self-lost gun.

Amazingly, the marchers chose not to fight back, and were beaten mercilessly. Journalists snapped horrific pictures of the violence to capture its brutality. Images of bruised and bloodied protesters quickly flooded the news outlets to give America a sickening glimpse of the assault.

Moral victory

By holding true to the principals of nonviolence, the Selma marchers were able to gain America's conscience with the moral justification of their cause. Their message of freedom and equality spoke loudly through their silence as they underwent painful beatings. By sacrificing their physical well-being, the protestors in Selma won a major moral victory for the cause of African Americans in the United States.

Martin Luther King, Through his unwavering belief that love was more powerful than hate, transformed the way we view race in America. His principled leadership of brave civil rights protestors helped to make the dream of equal rights a reality for blacks across the country.

For more information on principled leadership, visit the free Business Journal's online site and browse Principled Leadership: Taking the lead! Right by authors Garrett A. Sage, and Hon. David Aligno or http://www.businessjournalonline.com.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at linger-ing@gmail.com or call 813-2848/2732 and ask for Jun or Ling. Text MESSAGE ON to 0632 1496473 to get daily 500 leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

Young, soft voices help farmers learn good business practices

By Rivaru Calonza
Negros Northern Luzon

BACOLOD CITY— FARMERS, WHO USUALLY find time listening to educational radio broadcasts before heading for their rice fields, can now learn a thing or two about business management from Asia Info.

Radio's soft voice, which teaches listeners about basic accounting and marketing, will soon come their way, courtesy of compact discs (CDs) produced by the advocacy network Thinkdot.net.

Asia, 20, has been spending her free time recording the business manuals prepared by the Department of Agrarian Reform for its beneficiaries.

She has been recruiting other college students to help her.

Accessible to anyone

Asia, a commerce student of the University of Negros, said it was the least they could do. She grew up in a farming community in the outskirts of Bago, Negros, a mining town.

New approaches to farming and agricultural business must be accessible to everyone, she said.

But she is aware of how much information actually trickles down to the farms.

Asia said the only "technology" frequently accessed by farmers in the province is television and radio sets, mobile phones and MP3 players.

The DVD and CD recordings are being produced for free by ThinkLab, a first-in-Asia **venture to develop an online university for** OFW.

Think out of the box

Elmer Arenas, Thinkdot president, said Teledoc.net wants the government to think out of the box.

He said educators need more accessible avenues, like the printed DVD chains or texting, to disseminate technology and new knowledge obtained by the government.

Arenas said the "DAR University [or DAR U]" offers the government a new medium for transmitting agriculture-related information. The online university is officially called the DAR Program Beneficiaries Development (PBD) University and can be accessed through http://darnetconnect.upcom.ph/vlearn.cfm.

DAR U but sounds "graduated" to government employees, who are now certified to coach community-based social health volunteers to agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Arenas said he is discussing this problem with experts, hoping to draw volunteers who would willingly translate the manuals in the vernacular.

He said the government's biggest challenge is to get farmers' attention.

Learning, he said, depends on an individual's pace, and this is how the Thinkdot's CDs and DVDs hope to address.

Volunteers who want to join the advocacy can log onto www.asiainactionkidot.com.ph.

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Sunday BIZ

US firm develops *atchara product* for healthy food market

By Rocnel W. Domingo

AN AMERICAN FIRM THAT PIONEERED selling virgin coconut oil in the United States announced it had expanded its product line with the introduction of "atchara," which is marketed head-on-head with Korea's kimchi, India's chutney and Germany's sauerkraut.

Wisconsin-based Tropical Traditions Inc., which specializes in organic food products, many of which come from the Philippines, said it took five years to develop the atchara, which it described as a fermented dish made with unripe sun green papaya to coconut water vinegar.

"Unlike most atchara products found in the Philippines today, [our] product contains organic ingredients supplied by small-scale family producers," the firm said.

"Instead of using white refined sugar, for example, they use the higher quality organic muscovado sugar produced by fair-trade and organic methods among a cooperative of small farmers," it added.

Further, Tropical Traditions said the papaya society it uses for its atchara was the Philippine native papaya, which often grows wild in rural areas and produces a smaller, more potent fruit than imported varieties.

The company added that the most difficult ingredient to develop was the organic coconut water vinegar base, which further differentiates the product from other achara which use distilled white vinegar.

Tropical Traditions said it worked with experts at the University of the Philippines for several years to develop an innovation system that could produce clean coconut water vinegar from their

>>PAGE B2

CYPRESS TOWERS
Finally, urban living is a breeze

The high life reaches its peak at this new 5-tower, 20-storey residential community. A first-of-its-kind high-rise, Cypress Towers features a pinwheel configuration that allows optimal natural lighting and ventilation. And with only 3 to 4 units per wing, residents are sure to enjoy utmost exclusivity and privacy.

Cypress Towers completes the ideal cosmopolitan life with its resort-like amenities. Relax and take a refreshing dip at the swimming pool. Let the kids run around the children's playground. Hang out with friends at the various recreational areas such as the sky lounge, viewing deck, the indoor and al fresco dining areas, as well as the multi-purpose function room. Or even take brisk walks along the jogging paths. Truly, the possibilities are endless here at Cypress Towers.

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While the residential community enjoys proximity to offices in the Makati CBD and Bonifacio Global City, its residents are never too far from trusted schools, hospitals and major commercial establishments. Its perfect location makes it accessible via public transport through 2 major highways – EDSA, C5 and SLEX. It's also just a few minutes away from the airport, which makes it ideal for the jet-setting businessmen.

A relaxing heritage brings you the height of modern living.

Cypress Towers is a joint venture project between DMCI Homes and Crown Asphalt, Inc. It's indeed the smart choice because this beautifully balanced residential community is managed and developed by industry-renowned DMCI Homes. With a heritage that spans over 30 years, DMCI Homes leads its commitment to creating value-laden and premium quality homes with understanding for customers' needs. At the end of the day you can sit back and relax, knowing you've made a smart choice with a unit at Cypress Towers.

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DMCI HOMES
Because you deserve

PABLO Picasso's painting of his son as a clown, Musée Picasso, Paris

Sunday LIFESTYLE

The Philippines and France mark 60 years of vibrant diplomatic relations

PAINTER Paul Gauguin, who worked and lived in the studio at 61 Boulevard Arago, Paris 13, memorialized by the Mayor of the City of Paris

On my way to Chino Roces Bridge . . . I reached Francia

By Virginia R. Moreno
Contributor

WHAT FRANCIA DO I mean? The State, the Republic of France. And the diplomatic between our two republics celebrating 60 years of Philippines-France diplomatic relations from June 26 on to what is more popularly called July 14 Bastille Day of the French *Revolution* on the cry of *Liberté! Egalité! Fraternité!*

During the Recital Law regime here, it was the Ambassador of France alone under the ancient flag who would attend without public a feasted Francophiles with the General audience on Bastille Day in the Ambassador residency mansion in Forbes Park.

The first time we met, he drew his sword, and struck a bottle of precious French champagne to grab over the garden pool. After such Rule, His Excellency conferred on a select number of artists and writers the French Republic Honors for Arts and Letters: painter Mr Lee Lui, sculptor Napoleon Abueva, music whiz electronic composer Dr. Jose Maceda, cultural anthropologist Fr. Gabriel Casal and poet playwright Virginia R. Moreno.

Now that ambassadors here and there in Paris represent their countries. Thus, their resistance country flags fly from their chauffeured limousines, sporting 1,000 license number plates that guarantee diplomatic immunity from road rage or traffic violations. But this immunity of safety is inside from here-to-fly between countries elsewhere in this besieged world.

I still see our ambassador who was hoisted in his Aston Martin embassy gate for a wrong parallelly to enter a one, no entry flag flying. Only, diplomats, like artists and writers, are also foot soldiers. But you Magna Carta of Human Rights for Artists and Writers in the Unesco Berne Convention for Protection of Artistic Expressions (along with the Rome Convention for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights) and all universal promotions for us artists and writers have yet to be enforced.

On my arrival for the celebration to Paris of the 60th year of Philippines-France diplomatic relations, I rehearsing Perfume Prayer:

Lord Mighty!
Bendez the bare sword of this foot soldier
flying in a first class Air Express for the
first time from all Mabi Blues...

On the eve of my flight to Paris, I was stopped on Chino Roces bridge by tactical troops, a fire truck, an ambulance and policemen armed, shielded, armed for battle soldiers. Was the Palace besieged again? I was on my way to a nice convent school girl's recital of Gaminando Sur Marquez (Odes for Meals), my tribute to Picasso's clowns.

Now, as in playing now and now a figure, who else of Francia do I mean that transcends legacies of the modern world? The Poet, as the realm of France. Like Paul Valery whose elegies foretell the chaos of his time in On Into-

Europes, c'est fini!

Yes! The European Union consumers declare that Europe is not lost, is not dead. In our memory of new ones and old shores. All Europe has only to begin to act once more as one... here, with our love despairedas.

Van Gogh, Picasso

On to Francia, I mean the Poetic, native or adopted. As the Dutch Van Gogh, between seclusions in a St. Remy insane asylum, burning out into consolidation with the "Starry Heights." To where another Poet, a half-century later, attributed the healing of this broken planet:

It is the luxury alone that made whole
Europe's ruined mind.

And another painter, the Spanish Picasso, adopted by France, in fact, of the free world of the anti-after Resistance of Guernica. Through him, I reached Francia. Walking from my rue Jouvet home to a self-visit in 1972 to the Ecole Militaire Metro. I avoided the temptations of buying every one little toy soldier of Napoleon, for the delight of the lost boys I left in Manila, those under Marshal Law, in this toy store of authentic armies of all known wars, Christgh) across the Ecole Militaire of France. Only to walk into a newspaper kiosk that had the audacity to blonde blaring with the headline:

Picasso is dead! Picasso is no more!

Only in France would a newspaper juxtapose the mortal death of the conscientious against the immortal life of the Nation.

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BARLEY. Rustic and gold merge to create a strong sense of character in this design, given a further edge by more classic furniture, carved mirrors and high-gloss finishes.

LUSH. Enjoy the comforts of living in an inviting contemporary style.

KEJU. A minor play of a neutral hue, pristine white and butter yellow adorn this lively pad, topped off with complementary Oriental accent pieces.

Fully furnished, and then some

IF YOUR DREAM IS TO BUY A fully furnished place and move into it with the least bit of effort, you're exactly the home buyer Century Properties had in mind when it launched its fully fitted, fully furnished and fully serviced residential development concept.

The creative team of Century Properties will integrate the highly acclaimed fully fitted, fully furnished and fully serviced economic The Greenery Residences, through its 24/365 hyper-amenitized luxury highrise in the Philippines.

Located within the progressive development called Century City, to the heart of what is now being called "Makati," in Metro Makati, it is the first tower in the sprawling Century City's cluster of ultra-exclusive residences.

Top interior designer Chin Hsieu infused a fresh perspective to classic themes resulting in functional, stylish and global-inspired interior concepts — rather than contemporary Latin African-inspired Swarovski; primarily Oriental Asian, modern and minimalist Shabby; minimalist but funky/Sleek; and opulent Asian.

"It is always good to have luxurious chair one last few years," Hsieu explains. "But this doesn't mean you can't play around with eclectic designs. For The Greenery, I used to epicurianize from Old World, subtle hint to rustic and even Oriental."

All interior themes are unique in that they are flexible, spanning Pares. "Families drawn to the successful corporate executive will surely find a design that will perfectly suit their styles and preferences, and these themes are versatile enough to accommodate additional personal touches."

The Greenery boasts of amenities and features never before attempted anywhere else in the world. It will introduce the 24 by 365 dynamics—the same lifestyle that the entire Greenery City itself espouses where all services, from food to technical assistance, will be accessible 24 hours a day 365 days of the year.

At a hyper-amenitized luxury residential tower, The Greenery will feature the most number of amenities ever applied to a Philippine residential development. The Greenery will feature five kinds of unique interiors in studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom and loft configurations.

In addition to the Sky Park with waterfalls, infinity pools, a designer restaurant and a health club set 10 stories above the ground, towering sixth one of the residential buildings, The Greenery will have three kinds of gardens, three types of pools, a yoga/Pilates room, telephone suites and a children's playground, a DVD library and 'Hill theater', a massage and spa center, and ample storage spaces.

The best feature of living at the Greenery by far is that it is located within Century City — a fully master-planned integrated development by the world-renowned Ayala family of the Ayala Partnership. International, and the premium Filipino architecture and urban planning firm Palafox Associates. It will comprise entertainment and shopping centers, from Grade A office buildings in Makati to an

SLEEK. Neutral shades combined with dazzling silver, reflective light fixtures and funky artwork make this pad truly stylish and unique.

SAVANNAH. Subdued contemporary design merges with bold animal prints and rich dark leather to create the perfect pad for the adventurous frequent traveler.

AMETO. This elegant living space combines modern design with contrasting materials and tones, and touches of Old World furniture.

ly IT park, a private recreational club, a luxury hotel and an IT school that will be just a short walk or an elevator ride away from the residential towers.

The one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom flats and lofts available. Ownership starts at P18,000 a month with up to 20-year financing packages available. Call 810-8905 or 0915-3000860; visit www.greenerycity.com.ph.

BATH House Collection soap dish, P39.75; lotion dispenser, P98.75; toothbrush holder, P49.75; tumbler, P39.75; tissue cover, P95.75; flower vase, P469.75; artificial flower, P95.75; flower vase, P469.75; artificial flower, P95.75; Home Essentials face towels, P264.75 each; Home Essentials hand towels, P139.75

LIFESTYLE Collection 12-piece coffee cup and saucer set, P349.75

SUNWARE 20 cm fry pans, P429.75 each

Home fair offers discounts and prizes

SOME QUALITY HOME ITEMS AT reasonable prices at Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) "Open House" Home Fair ongoing this month.

Jumpstart your decorating with an assortment of decorative home items and furniture, crushed dining and kitchen fashionistas. Wow guests with modish mugs, quaint cups and saucers, glassware, fruit forks, party trays and more. Beat bedroom beehives with classy and comfortable bedding ensembles.

Tame your boring bathrooms into a cozy corner. If storage is your problem, RDS has a wide collection of storage solutions, from box organizers to bed keepers.

Robinsons' new brand, Simply Storage, is now exclusively available at RDS. Stylish canvas organizers like laundry hamper, shoe shelves and stackable organizers will make even your most cool great.

Aside from discount purchases, RDS offers numerous promos exclusive for the Home Fair.

In the Purchase with Purchase promo, get the stylish bed storage for only P549.75 (originally priced at P980) and the laundry hamper for only P499.75 (originally at P795.75) for a minimum P800 single receipt purchase from the Home Store Department.

Giftseek cardholders also get a treat as selected Home Fair items are now available at zero-percent. Refer to 12 months Skyline Installment Plan, making their terms of payment easier.

RDS will give out 40 Kyowa stand fans, 10 Kyowa microwave ovens, 20 American Home washing machines and 20 Sanyo 14-inch colour TVs in a raffle promo. Shoppers will be entitled to a raffle entry for every P500 single or accumulated receipts of purchase from the Home Store Department.

Catch the cooking and flower arrangement demos by Tekal, Kenyer and Farmers at Robinsons Department Store Galleria, Ermita, Metro East and Pasticci. Visit each branch to check out the available dates.

RDS' "Open House" Home Fair is ongoing until July 31 at all Robinsons Department Store branches in Robinsons Malls, Midtown Malls, Supermalls, Metropolis Star Alabang, Festival Mall Alabang and Limketkai Center Cagayan de Oro. Visit www.rds.com.ph.

KYOWA juice extractor, P998

SIMPLY Storage hanging bin, P549.75; stackable wooden 3-shelf organizer, P599.75; 3-shelf organizer, P599.75

TRENDSETTER Buy the pillow and pillowcase, P199 each

SHAGGY bathmats, P299.75-P599.75

On my way to Chino Roces Bridge… I reached Francia

From page C1

Between the dance of two world wars is his life, here is Jean Cocteau lying above his spoon. How ugly this happiness is caught!

The Assembly du poète brought

So one is yet his using the kind of epiphany by Cocteau sure our own: tribe of artists who sought sanctuary in France.

The painter Vhal, arriving on a boat in Marseilles before World War I, has been adopted for life by the town's bohoy brother, one Café owner and the lure of a chateau in Bilzamy.

Sagali, Sarao

Nena Sagali, seated on one stool before her canvas on one small table (also a dining, reading, knitting, guess-everything table), is also wrapped in an other artist blanket, painting for 20 years in her tiny flat de Clamart left, across the St. Germain des Près-Abbey that brims, where street painters propped their works, a bonking like the one in the movie "Amelie."

Journal Sagali left the Manila comfort zone of his dear Espaliel family business only to paint for really of his boyhood Susay and his happy weekends for Europe's most prestigious galleries and collectors.

From the third cry Watermill I recall the young student Marc Bosco with us—will-wiles, elder expatriates and gossiped and-outcast of the Philippines. Of course—after Martial Law was declared in 1972.

It was with the artist eyes of a painter that Nena Sagali first sighted us going to a Brazilian dance. Of course we'll dance, we whooped. We were excited as Liberators instead of the Liberators that we fancied ourselves to be.

We said the French culture-steeped young society of Manila, spearheaded by Marc Bosco, Cynthia Guevara, Victor Orquiola-Reyes, Tita Feldtaker and Odilia Gorge, flocked her to welcome the Grand Army Heroes of July 14, or they, Chino and her significant were silent artist in Ana Teo Philippines like Mariano de Guzman or Lucio de Flore, or having read my homage to a painter's Nude Descending a Staircase and put complete 20, I started to Hong Kong Shanghai Bank account from there prior Jersey chicks I had won before I flew to Europe: the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Prize for Poetry, the Smith Dollar Prize for Drama and a 75 percent share in the country Magazine in London—enough to sustain my French dreams, problems and dancing?

Most, they learned that I was a serious musician. It started in the conference of the degree of honors crisis in the formations on Philippine Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo by the University of Paris. All were to resplendent to go and sings, as they marched on the Pantheon steps. I was with Ambassador Felipe Madrigano (who came from Oxford University), an guest academic. So what if I was wearing a UP varsity sweater. Inone at home designer Spanish-Filipino, sweet) while I was researching in spring to assume me Philosophy of Costume Book, published Teatro Tarapia in the Paris Museum of Costume, where else could it be done better?

Rocco, Ricardo

Mac linked to the French Revolution cry of Liberté! Egalité! Fraternité! is the persona of Don Marcos Rocco. A student in Paris at the conference of World War II, with Jose Manolo, a student of music, young Rocco joined the Allied War Command as a pilot. He was Mon Rocco, unlike most of the post-war generation who went to study in English-speaking London or Boston, followed the footsteps of his father in Paris, but this time, amid modern rallies against the generals over the Indochinese bridge that was on to removal at, set Don Chino Rocco, now called Shiang by the people.

Mon Manilans remember the Rocco clan as publishers and writers in their English dailies and our Spanish La Vanguardia and then Spanish La Vanguardia. At the dawn of the French-speaking Don Shiang Rocco is world citizens. I surprised even the French-educated film director Ishmael Bernal when Don Marcos Rocco, with the then Philippine Ambassador, switched on in perfect French to pronounce:

Dharma is now the stylish art is the most classical arts: its marriage of art with technology is the basic contribution to 20th century civilization.

Just as true, except my grateful seven scholars to the Paris Cinema Direct, hosts Jean Rouch, director of the Paris cinematheque. I paid homage to this great press writer-director-creator of 60 his, after requesting as him that Raymond Bell, our scholar in the Munich Film Institute Wochshop, out to the Paris Cinema Direct Atelier, won the 2000 Cannes Film Festival award for Bena, Bonds, a short in portuguese French, took me on breakfast at a café across the Jardin des Plantes right for La Closerie des Lilas. He took me there because, like a true documentarist and an intelligence researcher, he learned that the rival German documentarists take me there most nights.

New Indies

Calling ourselves New Indies Rocco, resident artists and writers of an original Manila café called Indios Bravos (exiled, and its boats brought to Camp Crame on the last September days of Martial Law) we used to Bern in 1980, with the inspiration of the French-speaking Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus. The group included poet book artist Marie S. Francia (a name he as noble ancestor), National Artist for Dance Lucrecia Kasilag, Teatro Tarapia director Nena Saguil, Mia Gutierrez, Ingrid Maria Magnuson, music scholar Antonio Miguel, painter Jerusalem Sarao, Ambassador Maltitagan, artist Otello Estenson, Sandra L. Moreno, scholars Dr. E. Magnuson and E. Cuenca.

THE NEW Indios Bravos in the courtyard of 60 Boulevard Arago, Paris 13…actors who original Indios Bravos painters Jean Lucas and Felix Hidalgo Resurrection had a studio like French painter Paul Gauguin—among them Ada Maltitagan Jaile of Ambassador Felipe Maltitagan), artist Nena Saguil, Mia Gutierrez, Ingrid Maria Magnuson, music scholar Antonio Miguel, painter Jerusalem Sarao, Ambassador Maltitagan, artist Otello Estenson, Sandra L. Moreno, scholars Dr. E. Magnuson and E. Cuenca

Rocco then as publishers and writers in their English dailies and our Spanish La Vanguardia and then Spanish La Vanguardia. At the dawn of the French-speaking Don Shiang Rocco is world citizens. I surprised even the French-educated film director Ishmael Bernal when Don Marcos Rocco, with the then Philippine Ambassador, switched on in perfect French to pronounce:

Dharma is now the stylish art is the most classical arts: its marriage of art with technology is the basic contribution to 20th century civilization.

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On the private account by Ambassador Felipe Maltitagan from the city mayor of Paris, the guest of honor, sculptor Alvarez, and the sculptor friends sculptor husband on the façade of the restored Arago Paris, 13 e sur historical plaques to honor the original Indios Bravos artists who lived and worked there—the painters Jean Lucas and Felix Hidalgo Resurrection, the sculptors and propagandists Jose P. Rizal (ophthalmology), Antonio Luna (Chemistry), and E. Aguilar Cruz.

The historic scenes was filmed and edited by a new breed of artists—Miriam Medina and Rowena Hayao, by EP Wild Geese ary scholars to India and to the Museo Film Institute, as well as by those seven more in the Paris Cinema Direct Atelier of Jean Rouch.

Their favorite subject of documentary was represented by resident artists and scholars "adopted" by France such as the Gobelins scholars, Dr. Eric Casiño and Dr. Ramon Reyes his dissertation, "Therapeutic Hums from Kalinga to Southeast Asia," in French; drummer Antonio Maigue; and dancer Marcos Arruiza.

Serendipity is a word I've used so often as it is almost a cliché, but, when this can I use not for this piece used I bought from a Gaea Au-dio'dor Amyo that identifies a resident of the last century?

"Paul Gauguin, 43, had drugs Free Life"

Gauguin must have painted next door to Lama and Rodrigo? Is this author of the art Barbie?

So they shared one studio, one courtyard, and one barkeat? to one couple's. Painted A hundred and more years ago when they were not poor and obscure. Imagine Australian murdered on Bastogne Street and Picasso pushing a pair of his early paintings downhill from Montmartre.

If they shared tenancy in 65 Boulevard Arago, we, Du Pere Indios Bravos honoring them, in our reunion-old three du Lower Montcenis? by Indio Bravo Diaño D3, friends in residence in his father with a mural of Justin-les Plaines at the turn of the century, a copy of a painting by Henri Rousseau, still painted for night and petty customs clerk by day fleeing writer now say that he drew in extasy every leaf, branch, tree and sky of this mural, made independently of models in the heart of Nick. Since he never was able to travel out of France, the inspector of travelers offered his painting to the mayor of his town, but he was invoked that? It is pending rejected.

Paddock to that 24 June day celebration of the travelling of Manila, the ever loyal, ever noble City of Silhouette of Nick Joaquin. To be continued the "Intruders ng Hiring" Distinguished Manilans in Arts and Letters honors by the Mayor of Manila Gemilano Lopez, were about six of the new Indios Bravos. Unlike the Town Mayor who invited the painter Henri Rousseau and his pals, Lopez, not to his grandfather, a cultured collector and general of the Philippine Revolution, rummed and lighted up the historic mural of Carlos "Botong" Francisco on the historic room of life in Manila in the Government Hall of the City Hall.

New award

On my way to Chino Roces Bridge… I reached Francia, from the Batalla Dia's three cities of the French Revolution: Jubilee Egalité Fraternité, 1 mesa, 1 monsieur Libreé, Ben, with Don Chino Roces, the patriarchal publisher of 50 years of Manila Times, before it was closed down by Martial Law. And the image that remained in my mind of Spanish Don Chino Roces, one of Manila's old gentry in a T-shirt and a towel hanging from his neck, among detached services—workers in sneakers, factory workers and property laborers in rubber rain suits—all set from boating by fences, and stopped from entering Mendiola fence towards the Plaza by barbed wires, army tanks, helmeted, shielded and armed soldiers led by generals.

The next year I was stopped, before what is now named Chino Roces, away from the besieged Plaza. Detained, on my way to Manila Cathedral's 2007 celebration here of 60 years of diplomatic relations between France and the Philippines with a side-lecture by the French Ellen Tenpo.

I reached Francia alone for the celebration.

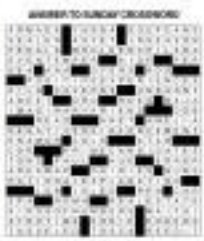
In Buenos Paris for the above were Leticia P. Shahani and Lourdes Reyes Montinola, members of French Republic Honors. Like the present women on the other side, there were about on the absence of official countries from the Philippine Republic here on our rejected presence as there of the 30 Filipinos in the Normale Institut of Incorporated? Whether in the Arts, letters, Sciences, Social Services, Law and Diplomacy.

To the hour of Ribbonism from the French representative in the Cabinet of De Director General of Cinema Paris, Jacqueline Lamarque from the French Belgian Marguerite Rasonnat takes the new elected as the first woman member of the Academie Francaise.

When I think of those who are not here, for should be here, I say aside and let their shadows pass before me.

CAFE au Flore in Paris. Dennis Brack, Newsmile Images

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



MTV host Maggie Wilson, Sofitel executive assistant manager Ms Bean, Sofitel PR Yasmine Hidalgo and L'Oreal's Trisha Diaz

US Pacific Command's Brig. Gen. Sam Angelella, AFP Maj. Gen. Ret Dolor Reis, and Joining Chief Col. Mathias Nelasco

HONORARY Consul of the Consulate of Bacolod-Negros Hallbertus, US Consul Gen. Richard Hawres, and Honorary Consul of the Consulate of Manaus Fortuna Ledesma

SPIRALE queen Jeanine Bonnevernier and Divas Prince with Adiona Valdes

PNB, Marine Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga and Sunrise Realty Chair president Alex Prieto

My first reception at the US Embassy

FREEDOM IS A PRIVILEGE we enjoy in part due to the bravery and courage of our men in uniform. It's unnerving to think that the pursuit of peace, especially in southern Mindanao, has taken over a century already. The two-pronged approach, through infrastructure buildup to bring economic benefits to the region, as well as via the reigning in of lawless elements, is truly a long-term effort.

This double-team, carrot-and-stick strategy was highlighted during the recent visit of Admiral Timothy J. Keating, commander of the US Pacific Command. Together with US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and the pride of Philippine Marines, he toured an abandoned this bayyid stronghold in Jolo, Sulu.

That same evening, there was a reception in his honor at the US Embassy. Among the countless invitations I had received in the past, one that had been for a reception inside the US Embassy. Like most Filipinos, my only previous encounter with the Embassy had been in the visa lines.

Thus, this was one social event that was not to be missed! Invited to finally have a chance to savor the stately Embassy, gated and built with century old trees on one end of brightly lit Roxas Boulevard, I was at a dilemma as to what to wear. Knowing that most of the guests would be diplomats or military, I decided to wear my version of a business cocktail dress, a modest Filipino design by Bibeu Valentino.

When I saw the very stylish and regal dress Imelda Marcos in her elegant, barbed dress, I was relieved to know that I was not the only one dressing a bind color. Ambassador Kenney told us how the road was so thick in Jolo that she had to take off her boots and walk barefoot to their plane. They arrived at 5 p.m., then somehow found time to shower, get dressed and get to the Embassy on time.

The Admiral must have taken longer to change, what with all his pins and medals.

The reception was held at the "Club" Parsons Ballroom of the US Embassy. This historic setting was the site of the wild and wet debut of war victors of General Yamashita after World War II. Lee McClintock of the US Embassy explained that it was one of the few structures in Manila left standing after the liberation and where a total could be held. It's a fantastic place for a social event, surrounded by paintings of past US governor generals like William Howard Taft, who later became a US president.

Ade, bowing gave a short talk about the US's determination to win the war on terror. Whether one agrees with G.W. Bush's policies or not, it is admirable to see the dedication of these military men. It's not his job to question politics but to follow orders. Side by side, Keating and Ambassador Kenney made a great pitch for US diplomacy in these difficult times, as the operating costs, and dwelling on the current US aid, he wielding the big stick.

TESSA! Jessy Prieto-Roldan

Not once had I been to the embassy except, of course, when queuing for my visa

Sofitel's Fil-Am bash

July is the month when all Filipinos may and consider our long and storied relationship with our American brothers. These memories are kindled at the right at the start of the month, as when the Sofitel Philippine Plaza held its 4th of July celebration in grand style. The mid-point of the year is also my husband Bonnie' birthday, so I decided that the Sofitel event would make for a super double celebration.

The Sofitel is the epicenter of Manila luxury. The Sofitel chain took over what was the old Manila Philippine Plaza, and put in $12 million worth of refurbishing into the rooms and the main restaurant, Spices. The result reminds of a "resort" in the city, perfect for Manilenos looking for a weekend getaway without the hassle of booking a fly anywhere.

Indeed, the rooms are well appointed with the latest gadgets and rich French touches of soft furnishings. The plush marbelicious units also has romantic touches such as a glass-walled bathroom. The bathroom even has an overhead rain shower and multiple showerheads. All these features are enjoyed together with an unbeatable extra—our world famous Manila Bay sunset viewed from the room balconies!

The main attraction of the hotel is the lavish restaurant. Staying with the political themes of today's column, I would describe their scrumptious buffets as the "coalition" of all food buffets.

The amazing entrees include items that are not to most buffets, like fresh oysters or chili mac came or rotisserie candy. It's so exhaustive that I gained two pounds over the weekend.

That 4th of July Sunday brunch had five buffet-ets until it was a take-out-to-escape-to-the-office-parked-with-the-hole-hole-dozing. I was told that this Sunday, it's the turn of the French to invade Spices with a "fantastique and magnifique" Bastille Day Brunch. Sponsored by Lanvitne, the brunch will offer diners the chance to win raffle prizes while enjoying a fashion display of designer clothes by Pierre Quinones and accessories by Arnel Pineda. Jewelmer will have a display there too. So head to Sofitel today and let your French buddy with your hair-do's!

From Aguilera to Sesame

The American Association of the Philippines and MTV Philippines used for the 4th of July celebration at Sofitel. That afternoon was alive with young, budding tech hands for the Battle of the Bands. MTV top honcho Francis Lacson was also there and he invited Ambassador Kenney to the concert of American pop star Christina Aguilera.

That concert was pure energy and performance. Considering Christina is three months pregnant, she was such an amazing performer with every dance she busy until the very end. Even the weather cooperated and it only drizzled in the end, in perfect timing with the coolness dinner that Christina disappeared into.

Christina is truly an American icon, in the same league as apple pie and Sesame Street.

This coming July 28-22, Elmo and other Sesame Street characters will be coming to Manila as part of their world tour. Tickets are available at Old Ticketmo outlets or by calling 911-5555 or 374-9999. The shows will be held at the Mow Theater in the CCP Complex.

Taking the kids to Sesame Street Live followed by a congressman buffet at Spices—now that sounds like a perfect weekend for the kids!

E-mail me at sesamestreet@inquirer.com.ph.

MEHAN-SPONSORED concert VIP guests Angelique Reyneke, Arnon Sar Diego and Rio Dhan

FRONT-ROW concert guests Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga with pretty wife Kaye and Kenny

DANCING Ian JM Rodrigues, Nida Castro and Amanda Carpo

REGAL and elegant Ambassador Kristie Kenney, MTV Phil. boss Francis Lacson and Sofitel's Ms Hazel

EXCELLENT staff of Spices Restaurant at Sofitel Philippine Plaza

STYLISHLY appointed guest room of Sofitel Philippine Plaza

SPECTACULAR pool view of the Sofitel from the balcony

AWESOME Christina Aguilera concert brought in by MTV Philippines and Globe

JAPANESE Ambassador Koichiro Yamazaki, Ambassador Kenney, Commander of the US Pacific Command Adm. Timothy Keating, Inquirer Chair Marixi Prieto, Inquirer columnist Tessa Prieto-Roldan

US Marine Forces Pacific Senior Aide Admiral Keating reception

US Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs Lee McCleary

AMERICAN Association of the Philippines Sandra Tuzon and Michelle Washington

YUMMY dessert station of Spices Restaurant with mini chocolate fountains plus taho-halo and cotton candy stations

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

The organized traveler

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

PREPARATION IS KEY IN GETting the most out of a journey. Below are some tips on making sure you get everything covered, before your trip as well as back.

■ Make a list of what you need so you don't forget anything when packing. Think of your destination, planned activities, the weather and length of stay to help to think head-to-toe when planning what to bring on your

THE ORGANIZED ED

Before you go

■ Research. Go online and look up the place. Print maps or get a guidebook to know the best places to visit, shop and eat. Finding out about the local customs, dress up or tipping, will definitely come in handy.

■ If English is not the first language, learn some words or phrases in the country's language, such as "Lachel Resto?"

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furniline
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SM

CROWD FAVORITE. Russian guests join the Bayanihan National Folk Dance Company in dancing the tinikling

The Department of Tourism has launched an aggressive campaign to lure Russians to escape their harsh winter and seek tropical refuge in the Philippines

MEMO REDISCOVERED. The Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa's senior sales manager Cindy de Dios Tolero brought with her 100 mollusk tops of the hotel's close-to-fish season as giveaways during the event.

MAP READING. Margie Manzano shows the Russian tour operators Cebu island's location.

Making Far East Russians look East

Text and photos by Anna A. Jamboro

A LOCAL RESORT OPERATOR HEDged up on his way to the economy class Uncle to flying businessclass, the German national had to fly economy since the flight to Russia's far East capital was fully booked. Tired and unable to catch a wink, he instinctively reached for the in-flight travel magazine of Thailand's air carrier's hotel through the Asian map outlook. What he saw gave him a good measure of reality check.

"I couldn't believe it. I searched for the Philippines and it was nowhere in her brand in the map; it was just a body of water," said Andreas B. Scholz, chief of the Radisson Island Resort and Spa in Cebu.

Scholz was among 11 tour, hotel and resort, and airline operators who hopped on board with the Department of Tourism on a mission empowered by the Philippine Airlines to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk—to market the Philippines as the ideal tropical paradise getaway during the long and bitter Russian winter. It was, however, a bit distressing, thought Scholz, that the Philippines was missing in the map.

But like good old hop and get across, the group Filipino came in prepared to work twice as hard—language barrier notwithstanding—for this epic journey to the Russian far east. It was DOT's first sales mission in that part of Russia. Two previous sales missions were held in Moscow in 1996 and 2006.)

"For many of them, it's their first time to hear about the Philippines. The Far Eastern Russians are so hungry for information about our country," said Ma. Morneau, sales manager, Seashore Hotel &Tennis Resort.

And there was a little coaching on when to make flight reservations. Shintaro said she had to "teach" Russian to book their flights earlier. As the only predominantly Catholic country in the region, travel seasons cut off to the end of October so they would have to compete with local tour jins for bookings during Christmas holidays. That's a problem they wouldn't have to worry about in countries like Malaysia, Thailand or Indonesia since Christmas is just another regular day.

FRIENDSHIP SEALED. Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. with Dr. Alexander B. Lavrinet, Minister for Economic and Foreign Relations-Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Philippines

Proximity

Why go all the trouble of bringing in the far Easterners when the Philippines already has a growing tourist share of inbound tourists from Central Russia?

"Proximity. The region of Russia is the closest to the Philippines—and among the closest, in fact, to similar destinations in Asia. There's a big potential for inbound tourism from Central Russia," said Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr.

The Philippines is only 2,200-3,200 km away from the Russian Far East. Compare that to Indonesia, that's 5,986 km away, Thailand (5,000 km) or Malaysia (5,214 km). Despite the seemingly long-haul, however, top destinations for Russians are still the Philippines' neighbors.

What we need, said THPT Travel general manager Cesar S. Cruz, is a good flight connection, Manila-Vladivostok-Manila. Some say that Russians couldn't agree more.

"If you don't have the airlines, you won't get the tourists," Morneau said.

DOT's sales mission is still in its infancy stage, and more improvements are still expected within the next 12 months. Jarque said the Philippines is currently pushing to update the air services Agreement to increase flight frequencies and open more opportunities for the Philippine Air. An RP-Russia air services consultation is already scheduled within this month.

With the Filipino airmen off for the summer, weekly charter flights carrying mostly miners from the far East to the Philippines have been canceled. Instead of flocking in about four hours of air time to visit the country, inbound tourists now have to fly longer via connecting flights from Seoul, Korea, if charter flights will resume. September, when the miners come for work right before the winter season.)

Fastest growing

Another special interest for the Philippines is the fact that Russia is the third fastest growing outbound tourism market in the world. Jarque said the new-moneyed Russians normally stay for two weeks and are big spenders. In fact, Russian travelers are among the Top 10 tourism spenders in the world—and more than half of all long-haul vacationers are open to Asia.

Where to spend in Russia, for instance—one of the country's top inbound tourism markets—Shintaro account for only 10 percent of the tourists, Cruz said. But however small the Russians might be in number, he continued, they spend easily 20-40 percent more than Koreans, he said.

That Russians love to splurge on luxury has inspired the quote: "Die Russen kommen" or equivalent to those Koreans (in hotel & tels)." And no one can accuse the Koreans of not loving their hotel riches.

"What we need to do is market them to invest in the Philippines," said Marilou C. Elsa, sales manager of the Costabella Tropical Beach Hotel in Cebu.

Doing just that in Iceland kingdom, the Hilton is hosting DOT marketing representatives in Russia. Last year he brought two Russian journalists for a three-week R&R trip to the Philippines, with the mission of writing a tourism guidebook about the country. The first 5,000 prints were sold out in a matter of months—but the book is now on its second printing.

Already Grigoriev is working on coming out with a second edition. A graduate of the Russian Transinternational Management (RGM) School in Moscow, Grigoriev is now outsourcing his intelligence to make it a foreign country he claims to have fallen in love with at first sight.

"Bali and Thailand by now (have a stronger appeal) than the Philippines with their luxurious hotels and perfect views," Grigoriev said.

Disappointments always haunts the Russian tourist, he continued, who was probably promised a breathtaking view in Boracay only to find an off-putting vision of an abandoned and a line of cars and stores facing his room.

"The Philippines has to emphasize on service and nature—our scenic hotel views—because most resorts are small. There's a beach there, you can have fun, we come to save... There there will be no problem, no expectations," he said.

Two small resort and hotel operators agree—the country is in dire need of rehab. It seems—more five-star hotels and resorts, top-grade restaurants, better roads and better access between islands.

With a limited budget, promoting ourselves can only go so far, Grigoriev said. With the guidebook doing well and DOT sales missions attendees making above expectations, it will take several baby steps after the other to finally put the country's tourism top efforts at par with the neighbors.

To top it all, Vladivostok and Khabarovsk residents have to apply for their visa in faraway Moscow (nine hours by plane, or seven days by train). This major investment, said Jarque, could become a thing of the past as DOT is now working on tourism packages that will point a 21-day visa-free entry into the Philippines.

And will the Philippines be finally added into the Asian map—at least on Russian flight maps? A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. The DOT is ready and willing to way for investors in the right direction.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT. The Bayanihan National Folk Dance Company performs a suite of folk dances before the Russian crowd.

CONSUL Yuri M. Rukavishnikov

ORDER IN THE HOUSE. Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation in Cebu Arriel Lopez Garcia (second, second from left) attempts to place an order from a menu in Cyrillic with a waiter who barely speaks English.

Travel Briefs

Wining and dining in Bohol

Tour chefs Elaine Gregorio and Richard Sosa, the team chef tandem mastering in America the sport in Olympics, Bohol since last night's night ingredients and combination with Bohol's wining cuisine. Routine experience they said has been very rewarding as it allowed them to explore their creative skills. The chefs said they will be in Bohol—exploring with a lot of French influence. Call 38 4888, e-mail inquiries@bonotel.com or visit their area area bonotel.com.

Magical summer

Mickey Mouse and the gang in Hong Kong Disneyland recently hosted popular Taiwanese band Fahrenheit to a sneak peek of Mickey's Summer Blast, an all-new party set to rock the city. Join Kong and some Tom from Fahrenheit joined Still Friend, executive vice president and managing director of Hong Kong Disneyland, and Jasmine Lee, 2007 Hong Kong Disneyland ambassador, at the forecourt of the Sleeping Beauty Castle before getting into the Summer Blast that opened yesterday, July 14. Debuting are Mickey's Mediterranean Festival and Animation Academy, where budding artists of all ages can learn to draw Disney characters. Visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com

Travel Mart Sept. 7-9

The 18th Philippine Travel Mart will be held Sept. 7-9 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. This year's theme is "Everything I need is in You!" Organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association, the country's largest association of tour operators, the event will showcase the country's diverse attractions. Visit www.philtoa.ph.

Sweet deals

Singapore Airlines offers special discounted round-trip airfares until July 31: $362, Singapore-$765-$805 to popular destinations like Kuala Lumpur or Penang, Bangkok or Brunei, Jakarta or Saigon, Sydney or Perth. Prices are exclusive of taxes and surcharges. Visit singaporeair.com.

Expert advice

Travel Explorer, official carrier for Travel Planner Expo of The Experience Philippines, extends group courtesy holidays to enjoy free and insights on travel destinations in the country. It is a unique cruise/self-drive. Both free number 1-888-314-0-88881 applicable in Canada and the United States. Accepting Bazaar. The department has an ongoing promo in North America. "Out of the Box," an online raffle that ends Dec. 31. Visit www.experiencephilippines.ph.

MARKETING COORDINATOR

Maria Ruby Bacilod Galorio, a BS Psychology graduate of the University of San Carlos, Cebu, was recently appointed as a marketing coordinator for the Philippine Trade Training Center, the first government-owned training center for the International Air Transport Association. She is a "rookie" of the SM, International Makati Chapter supported by the Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority and Philippine Airlines.

The organized traveler

From page D1

trip. Check off this list as you gather items for packing.

- If you're staying at a hotel, check accommodations/reimbursement to eliminate bringing duplicate items.
- Choose clothing that don't need to wrinkle in a packed luggage.
- Pack comfortable shoes for pleasant adventure. Aching feet will slow you down and put you in a lousy mood.
- Pack only the essentials. Remember, you have to pack and unpack those items.
- If you have physical discomforts prior to leaving, go for a checkup. It's better to be safe than sorry. A toothache can lead to a ruined trip and expensive dental bills.
- Prepare an "In Case of Emergency File." Photocopy/scan these and keep one for yourself and another for a family member. Put in contact information of:

The place where you'll be staying

People you know who live or will be in the same area

Embassy/consulate numbers in case you lose your passport

The country's emergency phone hotline

Your home contact info

Health insurance info

Credit card numbers—if you lose them you can have them canceled.

Copies of special medical prescriptions—any medication you have an allergic reaction to.

A copy of your driver's license, passport, plane tickets, itinerary with your travel agency contacts and other important documents.

- E-mail the "In Case of Emergency File" to yourself and to a trusted relative so you can self-access and print them if needed. You can also easily update and edit this for your next trip.
- Place a copy of emergency phone numbers in your wallet.
- Important items/documents should be kept in carry-on backpacks.
- Pack a magazine or a good book or two for catching up on your reading during waiting hours.

Handy stuff for traveling:

- Ziplock bags for storing/organizing small items or keeping things spill-free.
- If you wear eyeglasses, get eyeglass holders that hang on your neck to make sure you don't lose them. It's no fun to travel half-blind. Stylish ones are available in the market.
- A universal adapter for all your electronics—available at Duty Free stores.
- A money belt is useful and safe for storing important items; it fits snugly under your clothes.
- A wheeled laptop briefcase with pull handle. Get ones with tool pockets that convert to a sleeve for sliding over wheeled baggage system.
- A flashlight, extended. This is a handy credit card-size Swiss army knife that fits into a wallet. It has a blade, scissors/nail, a pen, a pin, scissors, ruler, pencil sharpener, even a toothpick—and is available in Rustan's Park in your check-in bag.
- A water and shock-resistant mini MagLight flashlight for emergencies.
- A health kit pouch containing: anti-diarrhea capsules, aspirin, eye drops, insect repellant, band-aid, sunscreen, lip balm and other medicines (check expiry dates) and make sure you have enough own for unexpected delays.
- Plastic bags for storing dirty clothes. This goes straight in the laundry when you get back from short trips.
- Safety pins. These are handy for pinning keys on clothing without pockets, for example.
- An alarm clock.

Back home

- If you're a frequent traveler, refill your standard set of toiletries when you get home. This way you're ready to go in a moment's notice.
- Not a frequent traveler? Keep luggage in areas that you seldom access such as tops of cabinets. You can store seat sheets as extra storage for out-of-season clothing.
- Keep only luggage in good repair and enough for each family member. Generally speaking, a person can only use two suitcases and a carry-on. An extra set is a clear list if you have more than what you need; you have too much.
- Use black trash bags are useful for covering luggage to keep them dust free if stored in the basements.
- If you use luggage as extra storage, make sure to refit souvenirs annually to make sure you don't forget what's in them. Inform yes, list contents and stick it outside the luggage. You can also opt to store smaller suitcases or lots of bags in them.
- File your emergency folder for easy access on your desk top.

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BONANZA REGENCY

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Will past indiscretion lose him his wife?

DEAR EMILY,

I am 39 years old, married with one kid. Late this summer I discovered that my wife got herself a male friend.

They have been exchanging text messages and have a special kind of relationship. I confronted her and the guy.

I am four years older than my wife and this guy, who is also married, is five years younger than her.

They admitted seeing each other and exchanging text messages but denied any intimate relationship.

To make a long story short, their special relationship was cooled, and my wife and I decided to be open with each other.

I confessed to her that, eight years before, I had—not a relationship—but a one-night stand with a married woman.

My wife is now confused. How can I help her? Did I drive her back to her male friend instead of winning him back?

I am in pain.

What's her confession? That she listened to you and left her would be punishment?

Tell her that, unbeknownst to her, she was already giving you a dose of your own medicine. You took it, swallowed it and now, it's even...more for both of you.

However, are you afraid that your confession of your own affair might embolden her to reminisce about/carry on with the memory of her own?

Truth is, she was not having this "text-affair" to get back at you as all! She did it because she really wanted to. Whether she will continue with this guy is all up to her.

How do you help her? Continue living here with each other. Court her again. Be kind and thoughtful to her, as this young guy probably is. Be the guy she fell in love with.

Ask her point-blank if she still wants to save your marriage. Tell her that her fun with this other guy might not even last since two hunks are going to be involved in this fray.

See if that does not work out.

Affairs may stem from boredom, promiscuity or cruelty. How did yours start?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Ugbutin, or send your letters to Inquirer Lag on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Mr. Marcelo on her the program "Kapamilya Ugbutin," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzMM 104.3 FM.

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Also included are 1,250-0 of the latest in the greatest English songs from artists like Pussycat Dolls, Puff Daddy, Fatin Hilton, Black Eyed Peas, Kelly Clarkson, Rihanna and Beyonce.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

(OFM Rodriguez) Carballo, OFM, minister general of the Order of Friars Minor, celebrates Mass upon his visit to the Franciscan Province in the Philippines.

Friars of the people

'The first step in liberating the poor is to live with them and share with them your life'

By Constantino C. Tejero

NO ONE would have associated the Franciscans with the lifestyle of the rich and famous. Garbed in drab habit-wear, these religious folk have been known for centuries as the "friars of the people," vowed to poverty and wedded to hard work.

Think of this humble Francis of Assisi shedding off all his worldly possessions to the last bit of clothing, building a church stone by stone with Clare, talking to birds and beasts to squish under hooves.

A paradox so coined during the Philippine visit of Bro. José Rodríguez Carballo, the minister general of the Order of Friars Minor. (The original Latin is Ordo Fratrum Minorum, more popularly known as the OFM Franciscans. And although they're persons, they call one another "brother" to accentuate with their practice of brotherhood and equality.)

Brother Carballo, who bore us, hopes to remain near the ideal of simple profession of vows of four mendicant congregations with the country's Franciscans, meet with the Poor Clares, celebrate the centennial reunion of the new Franciscan convent in the Vatican Mission area called the Custody of St. Anthony of Padua, and visit the urban poor.

The visit coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Franciscan Province of the Philippines, known as the Province of San Pedro Bautista. (In religious terminology a province is a fully independent organizational unit composed of at least 100 friars located in a certain geographic area, often covering an entire country.)

Part of Bro. Carballo's itinerary was a visit to Sinsinat in Nueva Ecija, the hometown of Father Rick Mahilum Gray, probably the first Igorot-born provincial address in the country. When we heard this out, our reaction was: But what would he be doing there?

Direct contact.

He entered the

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Kabigting

When parents lose parents

It is normal to be drained after a loss, but there are steps you can undertake to get back into the stream of things as you begin the journey toward healing

SOMETIMES FLYING WITH MORTALITY (the work... several times over, in fact).

Last Monday I received a text message saying that the father of a high school classmate had passed away after a long illness. The following day, I went to the hospital to visit the father of another very good friend from high school. Yesterday, I received news about another childhood friend, saying that her dad's health had just turned from bad to worse.

As middle, you suddenly become very aware of your mortality when you notice that the deaths among persons very close to you—parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents...are becoming more frequent. My age of 10-to-50-year-old pal is perilously yours-day when he said, "You seem to be going to wakes every two weeks now!"

The deaths of our children and the deaths of our parents are rather apart in the countries that we live, but they are major events that transform us forever. When you lose a parent, that part of your past is gone forever.

When that parent is ill for a long time, as Dr. Elisa Tan says—"The generations of adults referred to as the "sandwich generation" is simultaneously raising children and caring for aging and dying parents. Many also have full-time jobs.

"The pressures are immense as these adults, already emotionally overwhelmed, try to attend to the competing needs of parents and children. So-meone who they do, someone seems to feel hurt, left out or resentful. That doesn't work, especially when the children are members of this generation—experiencing a lack of freedom to respond to their dying parents as they would want to."

Recently, opinions that a parent's illness or decline can place a tremendous strain on family life, demanding an extraordinary expenditure of time, attention and money. The stresses that living with severe worry and anxiety throughout this period is emotionally, physically and financially draining.

Here at home, we are blessed to have very strong family support systems, and though grief is not so freely shown, there is much warm and spirituous love for the bereaved to share their feelings to support groups or through one-on-one sessions with a counselor, priest or pastor.

However, because as a people we are not trained to be social about what we want and need, many who belong to the current "sandwich generation" find themselves unarmed and burnt-out after the death of a parent.

It is normal to be drained after a loss—emotionally, physically, and sometimes even financially. Here are some steps on can undertake to get back into the stream of things as one begins the journey toward healing.

Here are some things you can do for yourself as you move on after the loss of your parent:

- Be patient and kind to yourself. The experiences or anguished is a myth. Especially during a time of loss or illness, you do the best you can and leave the rest to God and other family members.
- Grief recovery takes time. Allow yourself to feel vulnerable and go with the flow of your pain for as long as you need to.
- Be open and express your feelings to your spouse or partner. I was touched when my friend paid tribute to her husband who she said was extremely supportive in every means during her father's illness. Make your spouse or partner understand that grief takes time, and tell them what you want and need from them.
- In situations where you cannot be with your dying parent, diligently support your spouse in caring for your children, your siblings and find other possibilities for emotional support, such as seeking counseling or joining a support group. This is a time when family dynamics are expected to shift...when previous family changes are closely scrutinized.

- Be something special and proactive each year to remember your parents with love. Reaching out of one's grief to help others is one of the four ways to heal. I remember this one mentor of mine who was very close to her father who, during his lifetime, was very passionate about basketball.

On the first anniversary of her father's death, she, together with her brothers, would organize a basketball camp for the street children in their community, the highlight of which would be a tournament in memory of their dad.

One of the key things in grief recovery, when there is broken hearts, a spouse, a child or a loved one, is for the bereaved to be able to move from the enveloping feelings of longing and loneliness for the presence of one departed loved one, into a place where we are able to remember them with joy.

"Death is not the end of love," Mitch Albom wrote in "The Five People that You Meet in Heaven." And that's simply because we carry the memory of our loved ones forever in our hearts.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Young people in love (with science)

By Gemma N. Lee-Chua
Contributor

THE SECOND WEEK OF JULY IS National Science and Technology Week, yet science remains low to our country's radar though scientific literacy is essential for development.

Last week, I joined my colleagues at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology, brainstorming ways to develop science culture.

To develop science culture we need to recognize genuine achievements. Last year, Philrice executive director Lee Sebastian and I lobbied the book "In Love with Science." Twenty-two outstanding young scientists (19 to 29) described their work and dreams. This week 10 new DYS, all under 40, joined our ranks.

Agriculture and biology

Willie P. Abundo of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at UP Los Baños (UPLB) studies forest products like talcum and bamboo.

Abundo finds that cultivated cottonlike talcum can be the relief industry, so it can be accepted by the industry. "I hope to persuade manufacturers to establish plantations, leading to more jobs and better living conditions in the upland," Abundo says.

Christine Joseph R. Concepcion of the UPLB College of Agriculture researches the Panamint fungus, considered the "most devastating disease of wheat and a growing threat in the world's food supply" as it also attacks rice and maize.

Using genetic tools, Concepcion studies proteins produced by Panamint, helping scientists breed plants resistant to the disease. His research plan now on the cover of the British journal "Plant Pathology."

Arnold V. Emblan of the Department of Biology at UP Manila is looking into how pollutant metals affect fish. He assesses the quality of water and sediments in Laguna Lake, the second largest lake in Asia providing for the fishery needs of 12 million inhabitants in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"The Laguna Lake Development Authority only uses traditional chemical analyses," says Emblan. "But I promote the use of biomarkers such as protein response on fish to complement conventional methods." Emblan is also conducting research on tilapia to test the Nuvian disruptin in Quezon City.

Ephrime B. Morilla of the Department of Biological Sciences at Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology studies how the feeding behavior of the hopping ants (using to adapt) to populations and

community structures. For instance, he finds that the positions of some shrimps in a school give three advises. ingest in capturing prey.

Morilla says he is studying plankton in Mindanao beckoning to identify species to be used in aquaculture. He says "tend to demonstrate the importance of plankton in addressing environmental pollution."

Chemistry, engineering, computer science

Donel M. Caluscho of Intel Technology Philippines has in Cavite studies to produce polymers in economical and environmentally friendly ways. In the semiconductor industry, understanding the chemistry of materials can improve yield and quality.

Caluscho talks on public school teachers all over the country and transfers his knowledge to the youth by counseling for science investigations.

Laura V. David of the Marine Science Institute at UP Diliman studies optical oceanography. With her background in chemistry she addresses food security and resource sustainability. She has assisted Danao World Heritage Sites, and is active in regional projects on coastal zones.

Joseph L. Ausensio of the Chemical Engineering Department at De La Salle University-Manila uses math and engineering to tackle global warming, air pollution, heavy metal poisoning. He is now studying ways to convert industrial pollutants in areas like the former US bases. A petroleum engineer, Ausensio has also agreed on use his technology to deal with its pollutants.

"I am studying how to develop alternative energy sources such as bioethanol and biodiesel," Ausensio says.

Paulito D Palmes of the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science at the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) studies artificial neural network designs to manage and organize data.

With his mates Cynthia, a former DYS, Palmes is also studying the effectiveness of fluorescent marker organisms to improve cancer detection in humans.

Medicine and sociology

Dr. Eduardo C. Ayuste Jr. of the Division of Surgery at the UP College of Medicine in Manila has written on a broad range of topics. From basic biochemical changes to complex cellular processes, from experimental surgical techniques to standards of clinical care.

Ayuste helped develop new techniques in laparoscopy (fiberoptics) and fluoroscopy, robotic injuries and pain management. Now he is studying the use of ultrasound to deal with abdominal injuries.

Cynthia B. Saloma-Akpedonu of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at ADMU uses sociology to study technology.

Together with architect husband Erik, the Babylonia is now studying pre-World War II houses in her hometown that are being threatened by urban renewal. "Current owners have different ways of dealing with their houses...from demolition to renovation or restoration," she says.

Despite the lack of public support for science and technology, these outstanding young scientists' confidence in their country and try their best to help the country they love.

"In Love with Science" is recommended for teachers, students and parents. Proceeds go to the DOST Foundation. The book is available in selected National Book Store branches or call Anvil Publishing, 6374666, e-mail gemma.galvez@anvilpublishing.com.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Dacuag

'Venerable' Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo

VENERABLE MOTHER IGNACIA DEL ESPIRITU, founder of the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM), passed away in 1748, her followers had hoped she would be canonized.

After almost 259 years, the Vatican finally declared Mother Ignacia "Venerable." Pope Benedict XVI, during a private audience on July 6 with Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, CSsR, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, authorized the promulgation of decrees concerning 10 holy men and women who will be elevated to the altars.

One of them was Mother Ignacia del Espiritu whose cause for beatification began immediately in the early 50s with Sister Isabelita Borgo de Reyes, superioress. Sacrilla Nicasio Isabelita passed away before the cause could be followed up in the Vatican.

A young bride, Josefa Rios-Bustamante Clarin, fleeted, grasped to Manila to Ignacia for a healthy pregnancy. When she miscarried in 2006, she did not stop praying to the nun.

Josefa consulted again in March. After two months of bed rest, Anna expects to deliver in November. Her husband, Rodolfo Federico, is praying to Mother Ignacia and Our Lady of Lo Leche for a healthy delivery.

Who was Mother Ignacia?

Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo was born in Manila, Philippines, in 1663. She was the daughter of Juanpe Ines, a Chinese immigrant from Amoy, China, and Maria Jeronima, a Filipina. She was the eldest of four children.

Ignacia was baptized in 1663 at Holy Rosary Parish in Parian. She spent her childhood in Binondo, Manila.

Reflecting her parents' request that she marry, Ignacia sought spiritual direction from Fr. Pedro Chirino, a Jesuit from Bohemia. The priest gave her the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

After this period of solitude and prayer, Ignacia decided to "remain in the service of the Divine Majesty" and to "live by sweat of her brow." She left home bringing with her only a needle and a pair of scissors. She started to live alone in a house at the back of the Jesuit College of Manila.

Her life of prayer and labor attracted people (also) followed who also felt called to the religious life but could not be admitted in the existing congregations at the time.

Mother Ignacia accepted the company of these women and the first community was born. They became known as the Beatas de la Compañía de Jesús (Beatas of the Society of Jesus) in the community dedicated to the Blessed Mother.

The spirit of Mary guided the rules for the Beatas. She strove to be the living image of Mary in her compassion and exhorted them to imitate Mary their model in following Jesus.

Mother Ignacia and the Beatas were also involved in various works, and helped the Jesuit Fathers prepare people going on retreats. Mother Ignacia wrote the Constitution of her community and submitted them for approval in 1726.

After it was approved in 1731 by the Papal Nuncio of Manila, Mother Ignacia gave up her post as superior of the House. At 83, she died on her knees after receiving Holy Communion and was interred at the Church of Santa Ignacia. The Beatas are now known as the Religious of the Virgin Mary. They now schools and retreat houses.

VENERABLE Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, RVM founder

SCA

Thanks to the Columban Fathers, the Student Catholic Action (SCA) was brought to the Philippines in 1935.

In his book "Columbans in Student Catholic Action," Fr. Tadeo Dolan Parish talked about the setting up of SCA in Catholic schools from 1935 to Edward J. McCarthy founded SCA.

I am glad I was a member of SCA in St. Williams College and Lourdes Junior Seminary, Calbayog. I was molded by its principles. The SCAN belong to the "Army of Youth fighting for Christ our Lord." The book is available at the Mabini Church Parish Office. Call 5212093.

Mass for Piat lady

The San Beatrice Church was full on July 7 when a Mass for Our Lady of Piat was held. With the Islamic Sister RUE Choir singing, Archbishop Orlando Talampas led the people in glorifying the Lord and venerating Our Lady of Piat.

The owner of a medical clinic recalled that when Our Lady of Piat was brought to Hotel Dusit 10 years ago for the Cagayan Festival, a man applying for a job abroad prayed to Our Lady to be hired. He had cancer of the lungs and was given only one month to live.

Somewhat the man, the most appreciated soldier he was still alive because Our Lady of Piat helped him.

The July 7 Mass was made possible through the help of Fr. Bienvenido Tebelin, Fr. Francisco Mendoza, Fr. Rheg Cabrera, Fr. Lorenzo Manes, Father Tuabo and two deacons of the Bachelorette Orders of Mary.

July 16 is the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, but Archbishop Talampas will celebrate Mass on July 15, 5 a.m., at the Carmel Parish in Project 6, Quezon City.

Mother Ruth Perez, Sr. Dominga Ocampo and sisters Rev. Dioscoro Cadeli, OSB, on July 21, 2 p.m., at San Sebastian Church in Intramuros. "Kanta Misa" by Fr. Bernie Cruz, OSB, will be sung.

Catch the radio program "San Expedito, ang Santong Madalang Lapitan" today, 7-8 a.m. on Radio Veritas, 846khz. Fr. Dionisio Cacao will do "healing prayer for sale." Those who watch novenas to St. Expedito can write me c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Finance Tower, Makati City.

Friars of the people

From page D1

delicious irony as we brainstormed the idea in Bro. Carballo the afternoon we called on him in the Franciscans' Provincial House at San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City. It was the day of his arrival, and he was scheduled to meet and have dinner with other friars in Forbes Park the following day.

Asked what he thought that the Franciscans were actually running what could be the richest parish in the country, he looked a bit surprised and seemed at a loss for words.

"You know that place?" he asked curiously. "I have not been there. I don't know exactly the situation there."

He learned, though, that the Franciscans settled in the place when it was still a mansion. Thus, it wasn't a case of the friars making an extensive into the enclave of the rich but vice versa.

Yet the issue is not a question of geographical orientation, "but rather, 'I am for the poor' or the rich man, or I can be open to the rich also. We are open to all, whether rich or poor, down or dumb. We are here to preach, to give global liberation."

Franciscan communities are known to operate in impoverished areas. They have put up schools in Latin America, particularly in Colombia, Argentina, Mexico. They have a hospital for AIDS patients in Thailand and a rehabilitation center for drug dependents in India.

"The first step in liberating the poor is to live with them and share with them your life," said Bro. Carballo. "Liberation theology is a consequence of the Gospel...if you read and practice it and are fully committed to it, first I would like to emphasize liberation in its full and complete sense. Liberation in a large sense, not only material, political and social, it is also spiritual liberation."

New presence

However, maybe because of the seeming severity in the practice of their vows—as to it fit the definition of the 'labor-shadowy'?—Franciscan friars give the impression of being conservative.

"Absolutely not," Bro. Carballo said with a little smile. "The Franciscan order is very open to change. Because it is very close to the people, so with the context... If it is very pluralistic order. It responds to the challenge of society in a proper manner. It is very close to the Gospel, and the Gospel is absolutely not conservative. The Gospel is life. But rules are as ideology but as a way of life. If we were conservative, people would not have access to us. We are probably the most popular order of the Church."

A Spaniard from Santiago de Compostela, Bro. Carballo has been based in Rome for 14 years now. This was his first time in the country and he admitted he had not seen much. (His first impression of Metro Manila was the impossible traffic on the way from the airport.)

"I am just coming to learn about the Philippines," he said. "What I know is, they're strong Catholic. So Rome (here are many Filipinos...) thank the Filipinos for their love of the Franciscans."

There are now some 20,000 OFM Franciscans worldwide, with over 100 bishops and six cardinals. Despite that, they are declining in Europe and North America, revealed Bro. Carballo.

"But we are a new presence in Asia," he continued. "We are increasing especially in poor countries like Myanmar, East Timor. We want to increase our presence in Asia, and there is a growing vocation in Africa and Latin America. I'm optimistic of the future."

He explained that the problem at the moment was not vocation but faith. It was not a problem with the religious orders but with the family, that it could not handle the proper transmission of faith. "So the family is the future of the Church and society," he said.

Franciscans worldwide are preparing for the eighth centenary next year of the Order of Friars Minor. The extensive general's trips abroad must be a prelude to the grand celebration of the order's 800 years.

"But it is not just celebration," said Bro. Carballo. "It is also a profound renewal of our lives, to return to our origins to encompass the strength and vitality to return to the Gospel, to live with the Gospel, according to St. Francis... We are the friars of the people, and we want to remain the friars of the people."

SMD. Carballo with (from left) Bro. Antonio van Si, definitor general from Vietnam, and Bro. Arturo Bagubaras, former minister of the Philippine Province of OFM Franciscans

INTERIOR of the church of San Pedro Bautista Pueblo de Quezon City, motherhouse of the Philippine OFM Franciscans

Shroud of Turin mall tour begins July 20

MALL GOERS WILL HAVE THEIRS opportunity to see starting July 20 the world's most studied archeological artifact during the Philippine Exhibition of "Mysteries of the Shroud of Turin" to be unveiled SM Supermalls.

The Shroud's first stop is SM City Pampanga.

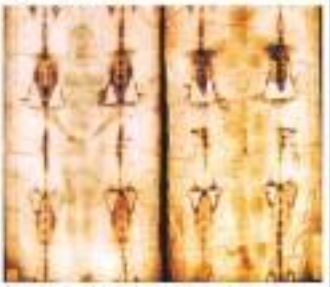
The Shroud of Turin, a centuries-old linen cloth bearing the image of a crucified man, has long been revered as the burial shroud of Jesus of Nazareth. It is kept in a cathedral in Turin and displayed three or four times in a century.

The Philippine exhibit will showcase a replica of the Shroud as well as rare relics' items from the collection of Barrie Schwortz, official documenting photographer commissioned by Holy Turin's Civil Survey.

Jesse Llorca, president of Shroud Exhibit International, Inc., said the exhibit will feature exclusive photographs, special artifacts, and over 60 exhibit items.

The exhibit also includes an Adoration Chapel for visitors who wish to spend some quiet moments in prayer and meditation, as well as a special area for special events and workshops hosted by religious groups.

The 45-minute exhibit tour is sponsored by Primerada Asia and endorsed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education. It will benefit the Sisters of the Holy Face Congregation; the Holy Cross of the Lord Catholic Foundation, Inc. and the Diocese of Parañaque.



THE PHILIPPINE Exhibition of "Mystery of the Shroud of Turin" will open July 20 at SM City Pampanga. It will then tour the SM Supermalls—on the SM Mall of Asia from Sept. 8 Dec. 9; SM City Davao Jan. 18 to Feb. 3, 2008; and at SM City Cebu by April 4-17.

After the July 20 opening, the exhibition will tour SM Supermalls Sept. 8 Dec. 9; SM Mall of Asia; Jan. 18-Feb. 3, 2008; SM City Davao; and April 4-17, SM City Cebu.

Davao demo on floral arts

FLORAL ARTIST MARK PEMPLING of Australia will conduct a seminar-workshop, with a demonstration exhibit, at 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Aug. 3, at the SM City Entertainment Center in Davao City.

Organized by Jasmin Floral Associates, Pempling will share his expertise in floral arts design trends and techniques.

Pempling will demonstrate contemporary designs, new ways with everyday bouquets and arrangements, tutorial for arrangements for all occasions, innovative and creative designs, quick but exquisite function designs, latest techniques for special events and funeral arrangements, flowers to wear, new trends in wedding chairs arrangements, bridal bouquets, creative theme arrangements, romantic ceremony and ritual designs, table centerpiece arrangements.

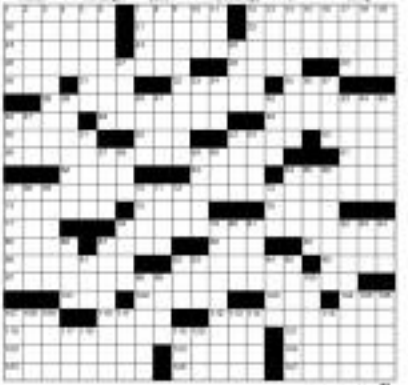
Mark Pempling is a two-time recipient, floristry leader and demonstrator from Australia with State and National Florist of the Year titles behind him.

Jasmin Floral Associates has organized seminar workshops in the past two years, bringing in international floral masters like Richard Go of the United States and Janice Tee Sim of Malaysia. It co-sponsored with the World Flower Council Asian Lion of Singapore. It also sponsors annual competitions such as the summer floral arrangement competition in Dangwa Flower Center and the Wilting Capitol Garden City Int. 082-224-6446, 082-227-9240; fax 082-227-1395; or e-mail: ebj@bulagos.com; and, in Metro Manila, 02-2420863 to 64; fax 02-2420865; or e-mail jasmfloral_consultancy@gmail.com.

BRIDAL bouquet crescent

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — CAN COUNT ON



answer on page C1

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couples, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bride's gown, if any, to the Inquirer, 5th floor, 2315 Makati Central Bus tiffin, 5261 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required. The wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and/or cost to the senders.

RIVAL - GONZALES

Lee Thurman John Rival, son of Emilio III and Maria Lolarica Rival, recently wed Lydea Corrine Gonzales, daughter of Leo and Ester Magbuo Gonzales, at St. James The Great in Alabang. Reception was held at The Palms Country Club, Alabang. The bride wore a creation by Ito Cuenca.

EHRLICH - SCHLAMMEL

Daniel Craig Ehrlich, son of Carl and Margery Ehrlich, wed Kristelle Mohammed, daughter of Rodolfo and Jessica Mohammed, on July 28, at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City.

EMANUEL - BARADI

Christopher Emanuel, son of Charles and Sherol Emanuel, and Kimberley Ann Alonzo Baradi, daughter of Jose and Anne Baradi, were recently wed in civil rights before the magistrates of New York City. The couple and their best Christian wedding on Dec. 29, at the Black Wash Golf and Country Club.

ROTONI - DEBUT

Maki-C Rotoni, daughter of Rolando and Marietta Rotoni, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at Club Manila East, Taytay, Rizal. She is a Nursery student at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños. She wears a princess gown designed by Romare Cordero.

VILLAMUEVA - SUBONG

Earl S. Villamueva, son of Robert and Irma Villamueva, and Dr. Sophia L. Subong, daughter of lawyer Rogelio and Alicia Subong, vowed by exchanged vows at the Covenant Palace grounds.

ATON - CACABELOS

Ian Rosemarie Aton, son of Nilsan-do and Enrica Aton, recently wed Maureen G. Cacabelos, daughter of engineer Mario and Estrellita Cacabelos, at the Sto. Nino Parish Church, Mukaway, Catabato. Reception was held at Hill Park Function Hall and Asia Residential Hotel. Gowns were created by Isabel Fernandez.

LABANDA - ELAGZAR

Dr. Felix S. Labanda Jr., son of Felix and Florentina Labanda, and Dr. Anna Lee L. Elagzar, daughter of Clemente and Angelina Elagzar, recently wed at the Malate Church. Reception was held at Diamond Hotel. Kimi Go designed the bridal gown.

RONQUILLO - TANUTISNUD

Arsenio Ronquillo Jr., son of Arsenio Sr. and Nenelina Ronquillo, recently wed Thelma Tanudisnud, daughter of Edison and Benedicta Tanudisnud, at the Sacred Heart Parish. Reception was held at Kowloon Room Pint, QC.

Bridal fair in Ortigas

CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA Manila is presenting "Weddings at Crowne Plaza," a bridal fair to be held Aug. 11 12 at the hotel's Grand Ballroom.

This year's event is expected to be bigger and more impressive than last year's, with more activity and an extensive list of suppliers and exhibitors.

With the theme "Weddings for all Seasons," it will capture romantic ideas to inclusive.

Sonny Pascual, official designer of the event, is working with exhibitors and event organizers to come up with ideas for weddings in any time of the year.

Services will include hairstylists, bridal care, florists, entertainment providers, photographers and videographers, honeymoon resort destinations, and fashion shows by wedding gowns, tuxedos and wedding party attire.

Exhibit booths are still available at prices ranging from P17,000 and P35,000 for various designs. Assignment of booth locations is on a first-come first-served basis.

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila is in the corner of Ortigas and EDSA Avenues. Call 6377221 or e-mail mnlcp@ihg.com.

SUNDAY, JULY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

STYLISH and functional slider marks the 3.2G Ultra Edition 12.1 (U700). Transfer your files and multimedia content in this phone that offers 3.6-Mbps data transfer speed.

Samsung's Ultra Edition II: Stylish and slim, twice over

THE ULTRA Edition II range is slimmer and more powerful, with cutting-edge functions and improved designs.

Here are new designs to fulfill your wildest mobile-phone dreams

SAMSUNG'S Ultra Edition 10.9 (U600) offers easy access to applications and overall usability.

LEAVE IT TO SAMSUNG TO come up with a groundbreaking innovation that serves both form and function. Samsung adds the Ultra Edition II Series to its bevy of mobile phones.

First new phones follow Samsung's successful Ultra range. First, Samsung's Ultra Edition 10.9 (U600) allows for easy access of applications and overall usability. It also features a 2.2-megapixel camera and a 2.2-inch wide TFT LCD widescreen for effortless viewing.

Another stylish and functional slider is the 3.6G Ultra Edition 12.1 (U700). Transfer your files and multimedia content in this 1000Hz phone that offers 3.6 Mbps data transfer speed. Load up your gallery and explore the 3.2G Ultra Edition 12.1 (U706)'s video-telephony functionality and auto-focus camera. All of these powerful features are contained in a slim 12.1mm profile.

Meanwhile, Samsung's Ultra Edition 9.6 (U300) is enhanced to illustrate it's stylish clamshell design. It offers an array of wireless capabilities with a generous 70MB memory, 3 megapixel camera and TV-out capability.

The candy bar handset Ultra Edition 5.9 (U900) is the slimmest mobile phone in the world. The discerning and tech savvy will be pleased with its high-speed connectivity and Yahoo-ready feature. It also boasts of its 3 megapixel camera, 11 hours of music play-time and large 1.95-inch color TFT screen.

The Ultra Edition II range is slimmer and more powerful with cutting-edge functions and improved designs. Samsung's Optimized Power Usage Solution (Opus) sets the Ultra Edition II apart by guaranteeing maximum performance with increased talk time by 30 percent, power saving by 20 percent and battery capacity by 10 percent.

Another unique feature is Samsung's Smart Surface Mounting Technology (SMT) which reduces the number of required components, interference and noise. These handsets combine the mobile phone and music player with super sound quality highlighted by 8 Qsound simulities developed by Bang & Olufsen and a dedicated music interface.

Whether it is the stylish and functional slider Ultra Edition 3.6-N (U600), metallic clamshell Ultra Edition 9.6-D (U300) or candy bar handset Ultra Edition 5.9-D (U900), the Samsung Ultra Edition II range is sure to answer your mobile phone desires.

THE CANDY BAR handset Ultra Edition 5.9 (U900) is the slimmest mobile phone in the world.

UNIQUE in the fresh range of mobile phones, Samsung's Optimized Power Usage Solution (Opus) sets the Ultra Edition II apart by guaranteeing maximum performance with increased talk time.

ANOTHER user-oriented feature is Samsung's Smart Surface Mounting Technology which reduces the number of required components, interference and noise.

SAMSUNG U600 Ultra Edition 10.9 (U600) allows for easy access of applications and overall usability. It also features a 2.2-megapixel camera and a 2.2-inch wide TFT LCD widescreen for effortless viewing.

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SUMMIT'S Lisa Calongcagal

SUPERMODEL Twenty de Leon-Gonzalez

FASHION designer Randy Ortiz

PARTY icon Jenk Tamaraiselle, and Carlo

PACO Sandejas

SAMSUNG'S SUCCESSFUL launch of its Ultra line means that more and more people are catching the Ultra love.

More of them will be regaled with the Ultra 2 Edition phone, which were recently unveiled at the Bayside Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila Hotel.

It was an evening draped in black and white chic, with the country's who's who partaking of the spirit of style, sexiness, slimness and sophistication that best describe the new line of Samsung Ultra 2 phones.

The evening began with cocktails in the ballroom's foyer, which was marked in elegant black. Then fully 30-feet-tall curtains covered the dining area, with its two long tables adorned with rich white cotton and blossoms executed by Bolero Blanca&Rose.

Opening the evening was Samsung's VP for Mobile Phones Charles Choi, who briefly talked about the new lines of mobile phones Samsung was unveiling that night. He also thanked the guests, which included business clients and partners, telecom operators and customers.

The sumptuous feast that followed was capped by the unveiling of The Ultra Edition 2, with models parading the premiere phone to fanfare creations by JC Buenviaje and Anne Bright/marker. The Brass Monkeys provided the music to the synchronary night.

"All these have brought pleasure to the Ultra life, and we hope everyone continues to lead the spirit of passion," said Choi. He then led the throng in a toast to the good life — Samsung's Ultra Life.

MODELS show off Samsung Ultra Edition II's chic designs.

Five movers, one phone

WHAT DO REAL-estate maverick Dirlac Lee, ABS-CBN VP Lauren Dyogi, photographer-cum-developer Victor Consunji, entrepreneur Tedie Magdevera and Beverly Hills 6750's David Buenaviaje have in common? Disregarding work, that's for sure, but also the right mobile phone for their needs.

The recently launched Samsung Ultra Messaging 800 Slider's phone—with its slim, user-friendly design and innovative, cutting-edge functions—is a multifunction device that keeps them productive while they juggle the responsibilities of office and home.

Measuring only 11.4 mm and weighing 105 g, the Samsung i600 is the new kid's thinnest 3.5G smart phone with a full QWERTY keyboard. It blends the desktop functionality of the Windows Mobile 5.0 platform with extensive multimedia capabilities to help people stay on the go, stay in touch with family and friends, or just have fun.

Real-estate baron and international mover of Dirlac Lee seals a movie phone that addresses her business needs while simultaneously multitasking her career-style. As Gloria Arroyo was proclaimed for International Court, she needs to keep her contacts and top-to-do-list and she is under at all times.

"The Samsung i600 allows me to view my schedule and contacts effortlessly. I'm always on the go, visiting sites, attending meetings and meetings. I love that it can keep up with my multitasking lifestyle," she says.

The life of a TV director and filmmaker is often an unpredictable ride.

"As the producer of 'Pinoy Big Brother,' I almost call 24/7," shares ABS-CBN vice president for Entertainment Lauren Dyogi. "My phone keeps me organized and allows me to keep up with many important ideas. It's a portable computer. Its blazing mp3 mark is also no longer a problem because of Samsung i600."

Dyogi also appreciates the phone's wide and gorgeous 2.2" screen, as well as its ability to store the important files without overloading other functions.

As the proprietor of The Outlet—a retailer of women's clothes, accessories, and expat necessities—hardworking entrepreneur Tedie Carman Magadova is always on the go. Her day consists of monitoring her store's sales and inventory, as well as making numerous phone calls and planning trips to supplier's offices.

"The Samsung i600 is the perfect phone for me," she says. "It keeps me in touch with my staff, my suppliers, family and friends. I can access my mail easily from anywhere with no hassle. It also has a great organizer that helps me plot my day."

A day at the life of 28-year-old Victor Consunji, the general contractor of Megaworld Inc., is all about site visits and inspections, a process that requires attention to detail as well as sensitivity when it comes to dealing with people.

For Consunji, the Samsung i600 is the perfect mobile device because of its no-nonsense genius-level features.

"The calendar assures I don't forget anything. Also, the extra battery makes sure that I'll never be without things under my skin. The camera allows me to take snapshots of the work in progress."

David Sanmiguel, meanwhile, is a hands-on businessman who relies on the Samsung i600 to keep his business and personal lives in order at all times.

"My Samsung i600 tells me where to go, what to do, who I'm supposed to meet," he says.

Sleek, chic, extraordinary

SAMSUNG'S launch of the Ultra series—beginning with Ultra L, Ultra Special and now to Ultra E—has broken ground for the electronics giant.

"[MOBILE] phone is a unique piece that caters to specific user needs," Samsung VP for mobile phones Charles Choi says.

JUST WHAT IS THE "ULTRA LIFE"?

Charles Choi, Samsung VP for mobile phones, explains: "Samsung has always embraced and encouraged going beyond the norm. We admire people who are able to inspire others simply through their desire and passion."

Fe Verilla, Samsung Concepcion for Mobile Phones, adds: "They go beyond limits, and continue to better themselves and their talents. In doing so, they provide unprecedented impressions in the minds of people who aspire to be more than they already are. Simply put, bringing out the best in one's self—that is definitely ultra. This idea epitomizes Samsung's Ultra Life."

Samsung's Ultra line of mobile phones—The Ultra Edition L, Ultra Special Edition and Ultra Edition E—is the brand's way of paying tribute to a lifestyle much coveted by everyone.

With the introduction of the first Ultra line, the D900 (with a slider equipped with Bluetooth capability and a 3-megapixel camera), D808 is clothed with a U-Tracker I and M610 (an ultra-light music phone), Samsung entered the market with the world's slimmest mobiles, commanding the eye of everyone from top executives to style enthusiasts and fashion mavens.

This success was followed by the Ultra Special Edition's F300 music phone, F509 video phone and Smartphone i600.

Now, the Ultra Edition E paves the way for greater technology and style. The line offers highly competitive lightweights including the Ultra Edition 14.9 (U600), Ultra Edition 12.1 (U700), Ultra Edition 10.9 (U800) and Ultra Edition 9.9 (U108).

Verilla explains: "With slim, ergonomic designs coupled with durable structure that packs in superstylish features, users are allowed to discover lifestyle-enhancing mobiles that are both functional and beautiful at the same time—a blend of artistry with breakthrough technology," says Verilla.

"Breaking through convention to achieve something beyond the ordinary is the very philosophy of Samsung. As a service to our consumers, we are dedicated to and passionate about surpassing limits. This is what the Ultra Life embodies," says Choi.

"WHETHER you're a corporate executive or a creative artist, you can be assured that any Samsung phone you choose will deliver a benchmark-raising performance!"

CHOI with mobile group head Fe Verilla

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the Ultra edition 9

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Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

INSIDE

■ Carmina's best defense Rushes /G4
■ Dad on Angel's 'temper tantrums' /H1

Rodriguez and Tarantino: A great tandem

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rybree V. Segsadez

LOS ANGELES—LUKE WILSON HAS TO face two—no the even, gruesome cooking war-ed on the new Pixar movie, "Ratatouille," but confession on "Vacancy."

Like what the top-wire computer-gourmet (CG) is a movie he had to do for "Vacancy," a fast-on thriller about a soon-to-be-separated couple stranded in a creepy motel after their car breaks down. Luke and Kate Beckinsale's characters discover that the shabby movies they are watching were filmed in the room they are in. The pair must struggle to get out before they themselves become the "stars" of the latest snuff film shot in the room.

In an interview the younger brother of Owen Wilson said, "When you read the script, the movie tells you it is just a small part of the movie. The script just says, 'They go into a cursed and cruel.' But what you get there, it's four days of work in the tunnel. And the script says there are a few cuts. When you do those up, there are 50 of them. I would love for the cuts to have been [edited]. Nate was tough. I was kind of hoping that she'll complain about it. So then I won't have to. Because I wouldn't have said, 'Let me know first those cuts don't have videos? Are they safe?' Do they know that they are here for concrete? Where did they come from? Are they [members of] KKK ['Kurwa, Kaware Gaikin']?"

Luke admitted, "It's one of the few times I drank on the job. I had to have a shot of tequila to get in there again with the rats. I was really worrying about rabies. I thought, is there any way Lance, my stunt guy, can do that?"

Above Ice and Owen also ask lovingly about their parents, who have been married for a long time. Luke was asked why he himself has not got on hitched. "If anything, I feel like it. Our parents' marriage almost works against us," he explained. "My parents are still together. It's not like they had an idyllic relationship or didn't have problems. But I would hate to get divorced. I would hate to have kids with somebody. I didn't stay with. I had a great childhood—not that their weren't hard times. But I had friends whose parents divorced and I would see them get shuttled between houses on weekends. I want to provide what my parents did."

The men who once dated Gwyneth Paltrow and Drew Barrymore added, "We're in this business where you're always on the road. You work strange hours. You may be in a relationship but you go to work on a movie and take some actress. So not surprising. We just enjoy that it makes for a strange environment. My brother (whose late best married twice. It's not like we haven't tried. But marriage is definitely something I want to do. I'm 35 and maybe that's the new 35. I certainly don't want to get into something to retrieve and I find the right person. Maybe it still happen—maybe it won't."

Double treat

Do you remember the double movie features of your youth?

We certainly remember the feeling after spending hours inside a movie theater in Cagayan. We came out a bit disoriented, not knowing what time of day it was but definitely exhilarated by the "double" (that was the popular term) we just saw.

Quentin Tarantino and **Robert Rodriguez**, two Hollywood filmmakers who work so closely and fascinatingly together they like to joke that their friendship is "the most successful marriage ever," share the same nostalgia for double features.

ROMMEL RODRIGUEZ

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	5	6	7	
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GREENBELT 3	1	2		
	3	4	5	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	2		
	3	4	5	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	2	3	4
MARKET! MARKET!	1	2		
	3	4	5	
TRINOMA	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

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Greenbelt — The Fashion Sale (Up to 70% discount from participating branches) 1 & 2 stories — July 7 to 15, 2007

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Market! Market! — SM Appliance Madness — July 4 to 22, 2007

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Ayala Museum — Fashion Heritage: The First Four Filipino Fashion Exhibit — June 16 to July 3, 2007; Flowers of Philippine Art — June 16 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 16 or email museum_inquiries@ayalamuseum.org

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How Angel stays afloat, and Carmina's best defense

JUST YOU WAIT, OUR FRIEND, A LOCAL SHOW biz veteran—and we don't take the term lightly—said. "The next one who will break a big scandal will be ..." he gave a little smile, mime, "Hope (let's not) stand out being talked about," he explained, "especially those of them who used to be talked about a lot."

"Even if they don't have current projects to promote?" we prodded, trying very hard to sound ignorant.

"Precisely as they will again have projects to promote," he exclaimed, cackling, and exhaling cryptic word, "Why," he added, "Another name I called just now, trying to call out a scandal. Would you like to hear the juicy?"

"Yes, thanks," we said, "But perhaps you could give us a sentence or this... pronto."

Think last word, he laughed again. "SOP. Just!"

Choosy lips

MOP. WORK... Catherine Zeta-Jones has revealed the diet tip that her actor Michael Douglas used to stave her in an interview with TV host Jacqueline Perske that was making Zeta-Jones, routinely voted one of the world's sexiest women, an item how Douglas would her with the water-would say-cheesy line, "I want to fatten your children."

AFP

CATHERINE ZETA-JONES

30-year doctorate

LONDON—After more than 30-year which he spent in a number of one of the world's most successful hotels, Queen guitarist Brian May has finally finished his doctoral thesis he began as a student in the 1970s. The Times reported on Thursday May. 10, earned a degree in physics at Imperial College London, but other years of studying interplanetary dust. An astrophysical work research for doctorate when Queen took off. He will receive his PhD next May, summing his thesis is approved, by supervisors.

AFP

Not turning wild

MOP. WORK — Don't get your hopes up, gossip-hounds. Daniel Radcliffe, who turns 18 later this month, is not planning any trips to Las Vegas just yet. "What you've really would love to see is me having drained abroad and then just going wild," says Radcliffe, one of the Harry Potter movies, in the latest issue of Entertainment Weekly magazine. "That's what I've deliberately not to give them."

AP

In Paris' shoes

LOS ANGELES—Reality television star Nicole Richie's trial on charges of driving under the influence was delayed on Wednesday to allow a defense expert to testify, prosecutors officials said. Richie—co-star of reality show "Simple Life"—would face jail over allegations she was high on alcohol and drugs when she was caught driving the wrong way down a test Angeles freeway last year. The trial will now take place on Aug. 28, a court ruled.

AFP

NICOLE RICHIE

Top of the tabloids

The top three list centers in local tabloids. On this week. Cited why we are stoned, if we are stoned.)

- Nina Rosenvik, Eraserheads
- Nina, tattoos on leg/leg
- Alfred Vargas, senorita on pagka-cool off rails ni Lj Reyes
- Alfred Vargas, nanirigo kay Wendy Valdez. (Mars.)
- Jerome Ejito-convicted to rape ni.
- Raimund girlfriend Cristine denies Dantes. (Balanza.)
- God Macleis: "Hindi ako bakla!"
- Alfred na hatong ulino, hinuprosukong mga hatong!

ELSA MAE QUINTO

Her best defense

- SECTRA (sapa nee nasa) Carmina Villaroel! Isuk-sikin ha nee video. Dhil the girl in the video has no brother, unlike Carmina, someone stepped out, so that's not her.)
- Carmina, magulos nga, sexy managers. (Tsenkien an her defense? I'm on, it's the way the artists conducted themselves, probably the easiest time of her life as a celebrity... when her husband came out. She never said an unkind word; actually she didn't say a word. We saw the video, too, and we don't believe anyone with such grace and civility would do such a thing. Carmina doesn't need a defense.)
- Kristine Hermosa, had shot as parodya?
- Archie, pinagsigaw! si Kristine: "Hindi siya nanaaaaag-anak."
- ABOT (mga nee nasa): Jessy Mendiola on Kris Aquino: "Ate Yuri?" (Ha parehalik nawa dritan along Kilos.)
- Marian Rivera, Dingdong Dantes, ng-tampaine-acciaet. Intin ba, Kuyllie?
- Diana Ramos: tahol magdas boyfriend. (Promise?)

Okay ka lang?

- Shalo Rhai Quintos, galit si Shaw Bro Gen Ir67
- Shalo Mae, nasking kiber-bang Boskool na si Rudy Hatchet.
- Shalo Mae firik nglit. gimmick?
- Shalo Mae, nanawa sina si Bob.
- Shalo Mae, pinatawag na nanonong MTR. DE.

- Regine Velasquez, gold boy Pia Guanio.
- Marian Rivera, nakipagtsikahan sa isda ni Sam Milby. (I don't know you, Lander!)
- Actress na naghihiwalay sa michinyon, nag-aayuspensyon sa harap ng bashers, at sex. (She was drunk daw. Imo.)
- Vic Sotto: dating-another girl?
- Vhe, dumating anniversaries niya ng dawsong of Vic.

Gotta stay afloat

- Angel Locsin, walang Jagar sa Dos.
- Angel Locsin, umuong muy mlo-aytong gigawin sa Dos. (Ano kaya talaga?)
- Angel, hinahanapan dahil sa di pa-ere-sense ng contract sa GMA 7. (Hanapanmaka...?)
- Ogladal si Angel sa camerawoman ng Starbulk, Annapurna, at Becky Aguila, mainggit.
- Vico Sotto, no-shock sa pagtalon ni Angel sa laging withdrawl ni tatanda. Akala mamatay?
- Angel, mura US na, may assistants pa eto. Gusto daw ng privacy. Pero nagpapakuha ng private sobanamin just love to take down him—an excuse to see her pictures, because she does photograph quite well.)
- Angel hinahagan ng release papers from GMA 7.
- Congratulations Ianwa, happy BF ni Angel. (Lawanan? Bitag ten ani ng mall ano.)

CARMINA VILLAROEL

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

RUSHES SUNDAY

JUDY ANN SANTOS

Rifts and unions

- Nakalilig problem for Judey.
- Aisha, Derik Joyce Bernal, bumbalik ang away.
- Pinka at Derik Joyce, gusto muna makita si Baby pa-school si Judey.
- Kinakabang mga ang away.
- Aisha, kinuwan na ang show bis ang mg. panalitan.
- Sa making ng pelikula-sila sa CEGI, Shame at Bobby, muling nag-bonding.
- Kathryn-Aljur: Muddel school sweetest in Twitter. (Where Boboy not one of the speakers.)
- Sit ni Catalan Bryan, nang-hamakan ang-kumabal sa Pampanga.
- Sit intimate pair Wendy Valdez a dancer. (Jaime?)
- Reunite ng PBB ayaw mag-aaway. (Okay lang.)
- Shows na hindan-nanalong mg mataasa, sibil sa kabak. (Not Darna ha Bossi; she's with Eliza Dagandan.)
- Hollywood 3 producers' director, magalit kay Adriana Palermo.
- Gmar at Jaimine, magselos na. Ano-pagpareho dahil makakapalaro sa mahirap-mirol?
- Gmar, Jaimine-quash quash-romeo.
- Gmar at Jaimine, pagawa ng "jabi at Tato. Godness, what better way to quash?)
- Aasawa, pagigan si John para magka ka-lyrac. (Could be a baby-sitter, baka-sama.)

SUNSHINE Cruz and Eugo Montano

Rodriguez and Tarantino: A great tandem

From page 8A

In Quentin and Robert come up with "Death Proof" and "Planet Terror," respectively, which were shown in the US as a twin full attraction called "Grindhouse." The two-in-a-great feature is made for a movie-throwback—flicks that exploited sex, violence and other taboo material. There are editions to those types of films come with missing reels, scratched prints, purposely blotchy and even film burn.

There are even fake trailers that would flash as bad-to-good "coming attractions" used to draw movie. Robert's movie part, titled "Machete," which features his regular actor Danny Trejo, is so politically incorrect that it's extra hot.

Outside the US, however, "Death Proof" and "Planet Terror" will be shown separately. The trailers will include "Thirst," Edgar Wright's hilarious send-up of pervy-vamp-of-thriller/horror movies; will

QUENTIN TARANTINO

be shown with Robert's "Hoboken" gore flick; and stars Rose McGowan as a heroine with a machine gun leg. It was reportedly an idea that Robert and Rose began as a crystal of fun, leading to a divorce of the filmmaker from Elizabeth Avellan, co-producer and his-mother of his sons.

Quentin also says in "Planet..." along with Rose Mcgowan, Josh Brolin, Freddy Rodriguez and Naveen Andrews.

The following are excerpts of our interview with Robert:

How do you and Quentin work together? And how do you see each other?

I first met him at the Toronto Film Festival in 1992. We met each other as we discussed our first movies. Mine was "El Mariachi" and his was "Reservoir Dogs." We started at least of each other and being supportive of each other's ideas like when I met him for the first time, he said, "Oh, I got a west script. I am working on. I think you're going to like the movie. It's called 'Pulp Fiction.'"

I never back to Columbia Pictures to finish my script for "Desperado." He was working a couple of doors down at the same lot as we had offices next each other. He'd send me and I would send those 'Pulp Fiction' and set them out. I would show him stuff from "Desperado." People sometimes go, "Oh, you're all competitive." No, it has never been like that. It's just a great idea. I can't wait for him to be successful with his idea. He wants the same for me.

This is our sixth collaboration because we just got along so well. We have a shorthand. We speak very differently but respect how each other works. It's a very good relationship. He says it's the most successful marriage ever (laughs).

How did the idea of "Grindhouse" come about?

I've had an idea for about three years to do a double feature. When I brought the idea to Quentin, I said, "Let's get married as it right away. I have a terrific script that I really like but I'll give it to you if you want it and you can just finish it." And he said, "Oh, I love zombie movies." So for a while he was going to do his own zombie movie all by himself but then he came up with his own idea for the stuntman-driver and the killer car ("Death Proof").

So I took the zombie one and I finished it because I always liked that script. We worked on our scripts separately. I moved into his house for that summer. I wrote my script and I would read what he wrote. We just great reading on the movies together, just laughing and coming up with fake trailers.

Can you talk about those trailers?

Originally, we were going to do all the trailers ourselves. We had all sorts of ideas for trailers that we never got around to doing. We'll save those ideas for another time because then really made us laugh so much. I would be sitting there typing as he would say the ideas and I would also write some. I ended up doing "Machete" as a camera test, so that got made. Quentin showed some of my "Machete" footage early on to Jesse Ventura's Eli Roth and he made me set to be involved too (laughter). Rob Zombie also gave me an idea for a trailer. I met him at the Toronto awards back in October. He said, "I have a trailer for you. It's called 'Werewolf Women of the S.S.' and it's..." I said, "Oh, say no more, go ahead and shoot it (laughter). You go one at the title."

Was it your idea to cast Quentin in this movie or his?

He didn't want to act anymore. He had the acting bug for a while but then he got over it. But when happens when you're rehearsing with the actors is that at some point you have what's called the table read. Everyone sits around and you read the whole script out loud. So everybody can hear it and get a sense of the movie. Quentin was there so there is at least a few actors were there. But for some of the smaller parts, I'll read this an actor or I'll assign.

I assigned Quentin to read for a couple of characters, including that one and only line that I'm in. I'm sure when he started doing a speech about Ann Gardner, he sounded so creepy. He was doing it in the voice of his character in "Pulp: Dusk Till Dawn" that everybody just went, "Oh! Jesus!" I don't know if anybody else I wanted for that part so I told him, "You have to do that part now!"

How was Quentin involved in this movie's cinematography?

Quentin was spending a second camera every movie for a while because he was getting ready to be his own director of photography. I wanted him to be his own director of photography on his so it'd be like a real "Grindhouse."

How did the idea of a machine gun leg for Rose's character come about?

I was sitting in that stand-alone when I was driving my car. I only had the script up to a certain point where she had the leg. Suddenly, somehow I just pictured Rose, which I had already hired then. It's when I had already hired Rose. I'm a machine gun leg instead of a peg leg. I drew it as Rose driving and it just looked great. I just pictured her doing roundhouse kicks, grenade kick-movies, dance moves and being able to shoot a grenade launcher, launch over a wall and fire to the air.

You have separated from your wife Elizabeth Avellan? Your working relationship, especially since you've always worked with her in the studio you built in your family compound in Texas?

No, it actually hasn't. It (the split) was very amicable. It had been years in the making but we knew we had to look at the larger picture. There are things we had learned the traditional marriage—our family work and company, we were in "virtual house," we thought, let's just keep working together. She's really still my partner and she'll always be for the rest of my life and her life.

When you said you head with Quentin for a summer in-mths, was it because you were locked out of the compound?

No (laughter), not at all. I can always go back here. No, I didn't stay there. I mean, I would go back and forth. No, I mean, whenever a job comes up she knows I am not easy to live with because I get so immersed in my work. That's why I used to work out of the house so that I wouldn't be around the kids.

As you get older, do you stars for recognition?

I suppose I might get there at some point. It'll be a very sad day when he does noticeable (laughter). But I will not do it for the recognition. In fact, I have done things like quit the SGA (Directors' Guild of America) and the Writers Guild (of America). I'm always in fights with the unions because they give me a hard time about shooting and editing my own movies. Those are the guys who vote for you (laughter) so I will never get any recognition.

E-mail the columnist at [redacted] *and read his blog "The Manila Digest," on* [redacted]

SHE can shoot from her leg! Rose McGowan with her deadly machine gun leg in "Planet Terror."

Magic spell in 'Stealing Minds'

Cuck!

"STEALING MINDS," A TWO-hour TV special starring actor-magician Rouvario Mesly, premieres tonight, 9 p.m. on QTV 11, with a limited release on GMA 7.

Richard Gutierrez is Rouvario's special guest.

"All the magic is done in real time and in front of real people. No camera tricks, just pure magic," says Rouvario, who's featured in have met the renowned Criss Angel, the No. 1 American street magician and star of the "Mind Freak" TV series in Las Vegas, one of the final stops of the "Stealing Minds" tour.

The show, an offshoot of the prime time GMA show "Kuha," also features Rouvario in comedy showtime aka MTV's "Isetsme" with Benjie Paras.

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GMA

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OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS
Mega Manila Households TOTAL DAY (6am-12mn)

	Jan-Jun 2007	July 4-11, 2007
GMA	17.1%	17.7% ↑
ABS-CBN	14.5%	13.8%
Diff (GMA-ABS)	2.6	3.9 ↑

Top Weekday Primetime Shows* Telebabad

Mga Mata ni Anghelita 30.3	Lupin 30.0	Impostora 29.7
Tinibelle 28.5	Walang Kapalit 28.1	Which Star Are You From? 28.9
Kapamilya, Deal or No Deal 30.2		
JuMong (Mon-Thu) 26.9	JuMong (Fri) 26.7	
Bituin 11.1	Maalaala Mo Kaya 20.2	

Top Early Evening Newscast*	Top Weekday Daytime Shows* (Variety)	Top Weekday Daytime Shows* (Talk)
24 Oras 27.9	Eat Bulaga 21.3	SIS 12.4
TV Patrol 24.1	Wowowee 18.7	Boy & Kris 12.0
	Pilipinas Game Ka Na Ba! 19.8	

Top Weekend Daytime Shows* (Showbiz Talk show)	Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Public Affairs)	Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Fantasy)
StarTalk 17.1	Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho 31.1	Fantastic Man Ang Bulawang Lalaki 22.2
The Buzz 15.7	Rated K 10.7	Kambal 20.0
	XXX 20.7	

Top Weekend Daytime Shows* (Musical/Variety)	Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Talk)	Top Weekend Evening Shows* (Comedy)
SOP 18.3	Mel & Joey 23.5	Bitoy's Funniest Videos 32.9
ASAP '07 13.9	Sharon 18.6	Judy Ann Shorey 17.0

SOURCE: AGB Nielsen Media Research Phils., Inc. (Urbanite)
Based on Overnight Ratings
* July 4-11, 2007

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ENTERTAINMENT

Her dad talks about the star's supposed transfer to ABS-CBN and alleged temper tantrums on the set

Angel's 'angel'

By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

A LOT OF INK HAS BEEN spilled on the raging controversy surrounding GMA 7's biggest female star Angel Locsin—specifically, that she is supposedly moving to ABS-CBN and that she has thrown tantrums on the set of her most recent Regine series "Sine: Tresures."

The actress' dad, Angel Calmanares, came to her defense when beyond entertainment interviewed him recently.

Blinded seven years ago, the 50-year-old Calmanares is described by Angel as "my knight in shining armor, my angel."

At the height of the intrigues, when Angel was being criticized in the tabloids almost every day, her dad offered this advice: "I told her to be strong and to fill everything up in the Lord. I also reminded her not to both-

ANGEL'S ANGEL, Page 3

ANGEL learned compassion from her father.

DAD on Angel: "I didn't raise her to be disrespectful."

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6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
2 HARRY POTTER 5
7 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
8 indieBites: TULI
4 HARRY POTTER 5
9 HARRY POTTER 5
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
10 DIE HARD 4

ERMITA

1 HARRY POTTER 5
2 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
6 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER 5
7 HARRY POTTER 5

METRO EAST

1 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER 5
2 HARRY POTTER 5
6 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
7 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
8 TYNAMKS

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 5
4 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
5 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TYNAMKS
6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER

1 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4

STA. ROSA

LIPA

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6 HARRY POTTER 5

ANGELES

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3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5
TRANSFORMERS

STARMILLS

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5 HARRY POTTER 5
3 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER 5

BACOLOD

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2 TYNAMKS
3 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RESERVE
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5 DIE HARD 4
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Angel

ROUNDUP

Talent auditions

'Potter' promo winners

'One Earth' concert

's 'angel'

Front page H1

...spreading cheer. ...on the trials."

...helped that 'Angel' ...interest bid lightsa—a ...by COMCAST program ...Agatha, the science

...he knows his-though-...riter. Everyone gets ...to be distinguished. ...ater, I always call me

...h, he stained her w...

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...ot to his daughter, ...the the blind at pa...

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...o take a crash course ...tion School, in prepa...ertyn—a sportswear

...e hit to see horses on ...ture and prepare for

...ome his daughter ex...ne see a big theatrical ...ored here. "I could bar...ained from the experi...ition.'

...aughter, Colosseum ...most old school' re...speculation that she ...

...," Colosseum said. ...ecord crew."

...ached his daughter to ...ve business to start a ...ter the summer's ex...n, but what a terri...ting with other peo...

...ot that... when she ...make the right deci...

...uth has helped us a ...KBA 7. And I think ...month she is known

...edgar that Angel, in her own small way, has contributed to its success."

Colosseum said that his daughter would make a formal announcement soon.

Her Agatha environment "magical is certainly a fea...

...latest excitement finds a dance pa..." Agatha (let's ...first that Angel would make the final decision ...or her venues: four already...from the United States, where "Angels" has a series of screenings, and Britain, where she will study fashion design.

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